

1 BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
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3 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
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5 PUBLIC MEETING
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8 VOLUME II
9
10 Naknek Native Village Council Hall
11 Naknek, Alaska
12 February 26, 2014
13 9:20 a.m.
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17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18
19 Molly Chythlook, Chair
20 Nanci Morris Lyon
21 Daniel O'Hara
22 John Jones
23 Dan Dunaway
24 Lary Hill
25 Thomas Hedlund
26 Richard Wilson
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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Naknek, Alaska - 2/26/2014)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm going to call the meeting to order at 9:20. Next on our agenda where we left off when we recessed last night was U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report. Is there somebody for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

MR. WALSH: Thank you, Madame Chair. My name is Pat Walsh from the Togiak Refuge and I'm going to give the Togiak Refuge staff report. In your RAC book, there's a list of 20 or 25 projects that we've done over the last year and I'm not going to discuss any but two of them, but if there's anything in there that anybody is interested in, I'd be glad to talk about it.

Mainly what I want to talk to is wolf and caribou studies that we've done in the last five years and they're concluded now. I'm going to give you the results of that. The study that I'm going to talk to was done cooperatively with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with Jim Woolington from the Dillingham office being the co-investigator.

The topic was how wolf predation affects the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd and I think most people here are pretty familiar with the history of the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd, so I'm not going to go through all of those details. The study began in 2007, at which time the caribou population had undergone a 10-year decline and that was following a 10-year period that it had grown.

During the period of time that this caribou population was declining, there were various regulatory changes that took place, ultimately leading to no hunting permitted on the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd. People became concerned, looked for reasons and a number of reasons were suggested, including wolf predation. That led to this study, to determine whether wolf predation was the driving factor in this decline.

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1 here, which was basically to understand the status of
2 wolves on and in the vicinity of the Nushagak
3 Peninsula, was to determine the amount of time that
4 wolves spent on the peninsula and thus in contact with
5 caribou and thus preying on caribou as opposed to the
6 amount of time they spent away from caribou and not
7 potentially preying on them. And finally to relate
8 wolf use of the Nushagak Peninsula to caribou
9 themselves. So that required us to finding what the
10 Nushagak Peninsula was.

11

12 You'll see those yellow dots are radio
13 locations of caribou that we've gathered over 20 years
14 and that pretty well defines the caribou range on the
15 Nushagak Peninsula. So there's like 7,000 points
16 there. The blue line encompasses 95 percent of those
17 caribou locations. So, for the course of this study,
18 if a wolf was within this blue line, we considered it
19 in contact with caribou and thus potentially preying on
20 caribou. If it was outside of that, it was not in
21 contact with caribou.

22

23 We caught wolves over a five-year
24 period each year, put GPS collars on them and the
25 collars gathered a location every three hours. So
26 rather than having a collar that you could get a
27 location once a month, we could actually follow the
28 trails of these wolves. So when they went down on the
29 peninsula, we would know that, and when they came off
30 the peninsula, we'd know that, so we knew where they
31 were over this five-year period.

32

33 We also flew months a radio track in
34 flight so we could understand how many other wolves
35 there were in these packs that we didn't have radio

where their dens
38 were. What you see here are food delivery trips by one
39 wolf carrying food back to a den. So once we located
40 the dens we went to den locations in the summertime and
41 counted the pups so we could understand what the
42 production was in these wolf packs.

43

44 During the course of the study we
45 caught 34 wolves. That includes recaptures to replace
46 collars or replace batteries, so there were 19
47 individual wolves and about 35,000 wolf locations. We
48 found that there were three packs of wolves in this
49 area, but only one used the Nushagak Peninsula. That's
50 the one in red.

0004

1 This wolf pack spent about 36 percent
2 of its time on the Nushagak Peninsula and most of its
3 time off the peninsula where it was preying on moose or
4 salmon or beavers or other things, but not caribou.
5 This was a big and successful pack and it didn't change
6 much. It was generally around 10 to 15 wolves
7 throughout the course of this study and unlike most
8 wolf packs that go up and down this one stayed
9 relatively stable.

10

11 What wasn't stable was the amount of
12 time that it spent on the Peninsula. It spent a
13 steadily increasing time on the Nushagak Peninsula
14 during the course of this study. What you're seeing
15 here is a measurement of wolf peninsula days. So
16 that's an index to the amount of time they spend down
17 there. Basically from the beginning of the study they
18 spent about 20 percent of their time on the peninsula.
19 By the end of the study, they were spending about 50
20 percent of their time there.

count of Nushagak

24 Peninsula Caribou when the study began. By the end of
25 the study, this is what the population had done. The
26 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd increased. So if you
27 relate these two sets of numbers, the pink numbers are
28 this index to wolf use of the peninsula and the caribou
29 population size, then there's a 74 percent correlation
30 between the two. A very strong relationship between
31 wolf use of the Nushagak Peninsula and caribou
32 abundance.

33

34 So whenever you do this kind of
35 correlation study you've got to try to figure out which
36 factor is driving which factor because it could be one
37 or the other and that's really important in this case
38 here. Is it reasonable to believe that caribou
39 abundance increased over the course of this study
40 because wolf use of the peninsula increased? That
41 doesn't make any sense. It's far more reasonable to
42 believe that wolf use of the Nushagak Peninsula
43 increased in response to increasing caribou numbers.

44

45 That being the case, what was happening
46 here is that it was not wolf predation control and
47 caribou population abundance, but instead it was wolf
48 abundance controlling wolf habitat selection. So there
49 was one pack that was relatively large and stable. It
50 didn't really increase in number, but it did increase

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1 the amount of time it spent on the Nushagak Peninsula
2 and preying on caribou. Most of this use was in the
3 summer and in the fall. There's a lot of other details
4 that I haven't included here, which, if you're
5 interested, I can give you a written report.

6

so did the
9 caribou population size. What this was was a situation
10 where the caribou population was the real driver and
11 wolves were responding to that.

12
13 That's all I've got relative to that,
14 although there are a few things that I want to talk
15 about in terms of Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
16 management. This is the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
17 population. You've seen this graph already, but now
18 it's got the last couple of years that I didn't have on
19 those previous slides. You can see that this caribou
20 population has continued to rise. The Nushagak
21 Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee has met each year
22 to discuss ways of managing this caribou population.
23 The focus of a management is to avoid what happened
24 here.

25
26 A couple years ago we revised the
27 harvest strategy and this has been reported to this
28 Council in the past, so I'm not going to go through all
29 the details of this. Basically we revised the
30 population objective lower than what we originally
31 thought was appropriate. We came up with an optimum
32 number of 750, which is that red line you see there,
33 and a harvest strategy that has various dates based on
34 both population size and population trend that
35 prescribe various harvest actions and when the
36 population is high, then the harvest should be really
37 high.

38
39 In the last couple of years, the
40 population has been above this threshold, so we've
41 really worked at increasing the harvest. What you see
42 on this graph, the red bars are harvest, the green bars
43 are population size. I've got the scales where you can
44 see the red a little easier, but really when there's a
45 harvest of 140, the population size is 1,400, so it's a
46 10 times difference scale.

47
48 The point I would make is -- well, a
49 couple of points. Our most recent harvests have been
50 higher than any years other than 2001 and 2002. In

able to achieve that. Last year we wanted a
3 harvest of about 150 and weren't able to achieve that
4 because we're trying to push the population size down
5 now and thus far we haven't been able to do it.

6
7 Of most concern to us right now was
8 this winter. As of so far there's only been four
9 caribou taken. We want to harvest about 170 or 180
10 caribou and that's almost certainly not going to
11 happen. Our concern is that if we're not able to this,
12 we're going to see the same situation that we saw 10
13 years ago. So right now the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
14 Planning Committee is trying to figure out harvest
15 strategies that could increase this harvest. I'm not
16 really saying this to ask this Council to get involved
17 in that. That really could be done at the committee
18 level.

19
20 But if anybody does have any ideas, I'd
21 sure like to know.

22
23 Madame Chair, that's all I have.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
26 Pat. Are there any questions.

27
28 Richard.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 Pat, you probably showed it, but your calving area, the
32 majority of the calving area for the caribou. Are they
33 out on the peninsula or are they further inland?

34
35 MR. WALSH: The calving area really can
36 take place anywhere on the peninsula, but mainly it's
37 in the southern half.

38
39 MR. WILSON: So these caribou spend
40 almost all their time out on that peninsula year round?

41
42 MR. WALSH: Yeah. Donald, go back two
43 slides. A couple more. Keep going. Okay. You can
44 see -- that's an interesting point you're bringing up.
45 This is pretty much a non-migratory caribou herd. Most
46 caribou herds migrate. This one doesn't. Those few
47 points that you see off the peninsula are occasions
48 where caribou would take a trip off, sometimes large
49 groups, and spend a few days and then come back.
50 Basically they spend all their time in a non-migratory

1 pattern on the peninsula.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, it's
4 interesting to note that the wolves come and go out of
5 there even though the caribou don't move. We typically
6 see here the wolves especially concentrate around
7 calving grounds at least with the migratory.

8

9 MR. WALSH: Yeah, that's exactly right.
10 That is the case in most situations. Well, that's the
11 case in a lot of situations. In this case, the wolves
12 used the Nushagak Peninsula and, therefore, preyed on
13 caribou 32 percent of the time during the calving
14 season. So, yeah, that was equal in proportion to the
15 amount of time rather than them really selecting the
16 Nushagak Peninsula as a place to prey on caribou. What
17 they were doing was they were preying on moose. Moose
18 calves were being dropped right at the same time off
19 the peninsula and they were focused on moose calves.

20

21 MR. WILSON: And you had asked us for
22 suggestions possibly on how to maybe remedy the -- try
23 to give you a good harvest.

24

25 MR. WALSH: I'd like to know what we
26 can do and in particular we'd like to know what we can
27 do to increase the harvest in the fall. Almost all
28 this harvest takes place in March and that's a point in
29 time where, from a biological standpoint in managing
30 this herd, it's way less appropriate. The growing
31 season of the plants that are going to carry this
32 caribou herd through the winter ends in August. So,
33 from that point on, however much vegetation is down
34 there is all they have until the next spring.

35

36 So if you could do all of your harvest
37 at that point in time, then the amount of food
38 available to the remaining caribou would be greater
39 rather than waiting until the very end of the spring
40 just before green-up when there's another flush of
41 vegetation. So that's the thing we would really like
42 to figure out is how we could increase the fall
43 harvest.

44

45 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. This is
46 Federal lands under subsistence rules. Is this just
47 watershed residents that are able to get these or how
48 tightknit is it right there for people that can
49 harvest?

50

1 MR. WALSH: Right now it's only open
2 under the Federal rules for people who have C&T to the
3 area. I think where you're going with that is how
4 would you make it more available and that is a
5 possibility that this could be made available under the
6 Board of Game rules in a State hunt, which would
7 unleash the harvest potential from people from outside
8 the local area. Thus far people on the planning
9 committee have not found that to be an optimal
10 strategy, but that would certainly bring in the harvest
11 potential there in the fall.

12
13 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I was
14 thinking more of just extending your residential
15 portion of it under subsistence rule. Like having
16 Nushagak-wide, Togiak and Bristol Bay here rather than
17 statewide.

18
19 MR. WALSH: Changing the C&T rules.
20 I'm not sure on whether that's possible. The main
21 limit that we see right now is it's expensive to go
22 down there in the fall and far easier to get down there
23 in the winter on snowmachines. There's a little bit of
24 hunting that takes place by skiff. Some people from
25 Manokotak are able to go down there on the Ugashik
26 River and get to the caribou when they're near the
27 northern end of the peninsula, but that's just a small
28 percentage of the harvest. Nobody else goes by boat.

29
30 MR. WILSON: One last comment. It's
31 great to see. I mean those caribou came from the
32 Mulchatna Herd and they were planted over there and
33 it's great to see that they're thriving. That's the
34 best scenario right there. So it's great that they got
35 the feed and the ground to calve. It's great to see.
36 It's a good problem to have, I guess.

37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. I mean I would
39 also make the comment not only that, it's very unique
40 to see them become non-migratory especially after they
41 came off a migrating herd.

42
43 Dan, go ahead.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Pat, do you
46 know, or if anybody else knows, we reviewed who has C&T
47 for -- I think it's this hunt or was it the moose one.
48 I'm not sure who all it is, but one of those hunts I
49 think even Newhalen has C&T over there, but do you know
50 who has it for this? Just for the record.

1 MR. WALSH: I'm going to end up leaving
2 somebody off the list as I go through this, but it's
3 the communities -- I think there's seven communities.
4 Dillingham, Aleknagik, Clarks Point, Manokotak, Twin
5 Hills, Togiak and that may be it. The real
6 participants in this hunt are Dillingham and Manokotak.
7 Every now and then somebody from Togiak will come over
8 there when winter conditions are really good.
9 Basically it's the people that are closest to it that
10 have participated.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. I know of
13 somewhere this winter in one of our meetings I was
14 really amazed that some Iliamna area people had C&T,
15 but I don't know for exactly what it was we were
16 talking about. I remember being really surprised.
17 Really, when I first came to Dillingham there were
18 people from Goodnews routinely coming through
19 Dillingham and hunting caribou up out of Mulchatna, so
20 people go a long ways.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

25
26 MR. HILL: Some observations. First it
27 looks almost like the wolves are smarter than we think
28 they are. They're herding those caribou and keeping
29 them down in the peninsula. Second, what's the timing
30 of the -- when are the caribou calving? What time of
31 the year the caribou calve?

32
33 MR. WALSH: Caribou calve in mid May.

34
35 MR. HILL: What about the moose?

36
37 MR. WALSH: The same time.

38
39 MR. HILL: So at the end of May the
40 caribou are not in good shape, but the moose -- it
41 seems like the wolves are preferring the moose calves
42 at that time, so I was just curious.

43
44 MR. WALSH: If you look at it in terms
45 of preference and avoidance, and we did, and that's
46 laid out in detail in this report, they prefer both
47 preying on Nushagak Peninsula Caribou and on moose or
48 whatever they're after off the peninsula in equal
49 preference at that time of the year. So they're not
50 selecting one over the other. Both of them make

1 equally good sense to the wolves.

2

3 Also, your initial point on it looks
4 like the wolves are smarter than we think and that
5 they're herding the caribou down there. I wouldn't
6 look at it that way, but I'll tell you one way that you
7 can look at this and that's kind of interesting. It's
8 probably the reason that there is a successful
9 situation where there's a non-migratory caribou herd on
10 a relatively small area that's very different from what
11 you normally find and that's because it is a peninsula.
12 It's a peninsula where it's protected from predation on
13 three sides by the sea and there's only one area to the
14 north and that area to the north is owned by one big
15 powerful pack of wolves. Wolves don't let other wolves
16 go through their area.

17

18 So, at the same time that this one wolf
19 pack is preying on this caribou herd, it's also
20 protecting this caribou herd from other wolf packs. If
21 this caribou herd had land all the way around it with
22 other wolf packs all the way around it, then I doubt
23 we'd have this same situation. We probably would not
24 have a non-migratory herd and we would not have the
25 kind of stability we see here. So this one pack of
26 wolves is defending their food.

27

28 MR. HILL: Okay. That was kind of what
29 I was getting at also. Nobody is allowing anybody to
30 get down there and get those caribou. With respect to
31 the food source with the moose, do you see any decline
32 in the moose population that goes along with maybe some
33 of the different kinds of food source that they have?

34

35 MR. WALSH: The food studies that we
36 have done on moose, and we have done diet studies on
37 moose in the area, show that diet quality is high in
38 the Togiak area, including that area around Manokotak.
39 It's higher than most places in the state. It's
40 probably a function of the fact that moose are a recent
41 arrival to the area. They've only been there about 25
42 years now in that area and plant communities haven't
43 changed. They eventually will. Plants become less
44 nutritious over time, they develop more tannins and
45 other chemicals that make the very same plant less
46 nutritious over time in response to grazing. That
47 hasn't happened there yet.

48

49 Relative to population density, the
50 population has either stabilized or slightly declined

1 in that area, but it's still a relatively abundant
2 moose population for our part of the state.

3
4 MR. HILL: Have you done any -- I know
5 I'm monopolizing, sorry. This is very interesting to
6 me. Have you done any collaring of the moose at all to
7 see if they stay in the area or do they move around in
8 and out?

9
10 MR. WALSH: Yeah, we've done a moose
11 telemetry study going on 25 years now. Maybe the most
12 long-term continuous study in the state or it's one of
13 the most. We have found many examples of migratory --
14 or moose have colonized from east to west, so moose
15 that you put a collar on in an area when it's a 10-
16 month-old calf often don't stay in the natal home
17 range, the place where it was born, but they move to
18 the west. As the populations have become established,
19 then those calves aren't doing that and then they're
20 staying there and living their whole life in a given
21 area rather than moving west to unoccupied territory.

22
23 For Togiak Refuge we still have some
24 uncolonized areas. In fact we're designing a study now
25 to look at predation effects on this moose population
26 that ranges from an old, established population that's
27 been around for 25 years over to the Kanektok Drainage
28 where it's brand new and it's just reached critical
29 mass if you will.

30
31 MR. HILL: One more question and then
32 I'll let somebody else talk. What about the bears in
33 the area, what's the population of those?

34
35 MR. WALSH: That's a very interesting
36 part of this whole thing. The bear population is about
37 40 bears per thousand square kilometers. That number
38 probably doesn't mean anything to you. So think about
39 it in terms of in the Interior where bears are not very
40 abundant. There may be 10 bears to 1,000 kilometers.
41 So four times as many where we are. But then you go to
42 where we are here on the Alaska Peninsula, there's 100
43 bears to 1,000 kilometers. If you go to Kodiak Refuge
44 or Admiralty Island, there's 400 bears to 1,000
45 kilometers. So, where we are it's a moderate
46 population of brown bears.

47
48 If you look at the total number of
49 bears for, say, all of Togiak Refuge versus the total
50 number of wolves that are likely on all of Togiak

1 Refuge, there's eight or ten times as many bears as
2 there are wolves.

3

4 MR. HILL: I apologize. One more
5 question. What about predation on the calves. Do
6 wolves do a greater amount of that than the bears?

7

8 MR. WALSH: We didn't study that
9 directly, so I can't tell you that. My impression is
10 that bear predation must be a strong part of this whole
11 picture. We're going to be focusing more of our
12 attention on bear predation than we have thus far, but
13 bear predation was not a focus of the study that I just
14 presented here.

15

16 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
19 questions.

20

21 Dan.

22

23 MR. O'HARA: Pat, I think that --
24 Richard, that caribou herd came from the North
25 Peninsula by Johnson Hill, not the Nushagak. I think
26 that was the reason for that because, you know, they
27 might go right back to Mulchatna this next spring. And
28 Bo Darden, with his single engine Otter, carried most
29 of them over there. He has a cargo service in
30 Dillingham.

31

32 The bear population in Western Alaska
33 and Eastern over here is absolutely no comparison
34 whatsoever. You know, you can fly those -- and I go to
35 Togiak a lot. I think the other thing too -- and, of
36 course, this is not your area, Pat, but when you go to
37 the Nushagak, there's a lot of browse in that Nushagak.
38 It's all browse. And you've got a lot of good hunters
39 over there. One kid got nine wolves in one day. It
40 took him two days to get them home. They were frozen
41 by the time he got home. The kid is from Levelock. So
42 they take care of that wolf population.

43

44 Plus the browse. You know, you go from
45 here to Dillingham, I've done it many, many times. You
46 go through an area of 15 or 20 acres and there will be
47 a big pile of brush and right in the middle of the
48 brush is a cow with her calf all winter long. Come
49 spring she walks out of there. So it's really a
50 situation.

1 But I guess the point is I think the
2 Alaska Peninsula wolf population is probably taking
3 care of itself since the caribou herd has gone away
4 because it looked to me like this is kind of a down/up
5 situation, which we hate to admit. We'd rather kill
6 off all the wolves than do that, of course.

7
8 On your screen you had 34 -- you had
9 two things. One is the population of that big wolf
10 pack stayed the same, so apparently somebody is killing
11 them or they're killing each other off because they
12 would grow quite rapidly. The second thing is you had
13 something and then you had 19 unique. What was that
14 unique on your screen?

15
16 MR. WALSH: The 19 unique was 19
17 individual wolves. I mentioned that I think we
18 captured 35 total wolves, but those weren't all
19 individual animals because some were recaptured
20 multiple times during the course of this study. So the
21 information that I presented was based on what 19
22 wolves did out of the entire group of wolves that were
23 present there.

24
25 I'm trying to think back to the
26 question you asked.

27
28 MR. O'HARA: Why the pack stayed the
29 same.

30
31 MR. WALSH: Oh, yeah. That's a good
32 question. I've thought about that a lot because that
33 Nushagak Peninsula is as flat and open an area as you
34 can get and anybody on a snowmachine can go as fast as
35 they want down there. But wolves avoided that area in
36 the wintertime. There was a disproportionately small
37 amount of their use in the winter, so maybe they know
38 that's not a safe place to go in the winter. Maybe
39 it's also because it's harder to catch caribou down
40 there in the wintertime because it's a relatively low
41 snow area and caribou are relatively mobile, but
42 whatever it is, wolves didn't spend a lot of time there
43 and that helped that pack stay stable.

44
45 That pack exported wolves. It raised
46 wolves to the point where they were independent and
47 they left, so some of them probably came down here from
48 up there. I don't know where they went. We tracked
49 some that went as far as Lake Clark. Some went as far
50 as Bethel. Some went into the Goodnews drainage, but

1 didn't have enough collars to know where all of them
2 go. When they disburse, they go a long ways.
3
4 Right now in the year the study ended
5 hunters did get into that wolf pack and shot it down to
6 three wolves and I don't know the status of it now.
7 Nothing lasts forever and the fact that that wolf pack
8 was stable during the five years we studied it I think
9 is unusual and not to be expected.
10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: They must have been
12 under the misperception that somebody would harass them
13 if they stayed there in the wintertime, which none of
14 us would ever do.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. WALSH: I don't think that's a
19 misperception in there.
20
21 MR. O'HARA: You know, 20 years ago
22 when you'd fly over a wolf he'd take off running. Now
23 they just stand there and look at you because there's
24 no more airborne type stuff.
25
26 MR. WALSH: They learn.
27
28 MR. O'HARA: Oh, yeah, you're right.
29 They're smart.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
32 questions.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: In your
37 management meetings with -- I know there's members from
38 Togiak and Manokotak, Aleknagik. What's their take on
39 increase of harvest? I know they'd probably harvest
40 more if the conditions were better. I know the fall
41 season is harder because that location is unique. It's
42 way over there away from too many communities and
43 there's no way to get over there unless you skiff all
44 the way around the cape.
45
46 MR. WALSH: Right. It's not worth it
47 to people to do that.
48
49 MR. O'HARA: One of the things you
50 didn't show us was the migration of the herd. Do they

1 go up as far as Twin Hills? Because I've heard guys
2 talk about getting -- maybe it's the Mulchatna Herd or
3 something that comes down through Togiak and goes back
4 up, but you didn't show us the migration of the herd.

5
6 MR. WALSH: This herd doesn't migrate.
7 It stays right where all those yellow dots were. We
8 have heard those reports in Twin Hills and the caribou
9 that we've seen over in Twin Hills we believe are part
10 of the Mulchatna Herd. But it is possible that caribou
11 from the Nushagak Peninsula could have gone over there
12 and come back and we missed them. So I wouldn't
13 discount that, but I find it far more likely that it's
14 Mulchatna Caribou that people have seen there.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

17
18 MR. O'HARA: Would it be possible to do
19 a same day airborne hunting for just the people who
20 have C&T in that area or is that not advisable?

21
22 MR. WALSH: I'd have to talk with other
23 people on that, but I think that is possible and I
24 think that is not a bad idea at all.

25
26 MR. O'HARA: You could control it by
27 permitting just like they do here under Tier II. We
28 get the permit, we go out and we bring the permit back
29 and then they know what we've taken. You asked for
30 some suggestions and I think that might be a possible
31 one.

32
33 And then Nanci and I were sitting there
34 talking about the last two years no snow. 2012 we
35 should have killed them all off. We had snow as high
36 as this ceiling.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and that's what
41 I was going to add to what Dan was saying too, is you
42 could even -- the same day airborne you could limit to
43 just the fall hunt waiting to see what the spring
44 brought out as far as weather condition goes, but that
45 certainly would aid in bringing interest out in the
46 fall, I would think.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

49
50 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, another thing might

1 not be quite the optimal, but like last spring I was
2 under the impression that there were no more caribou
3 permits available. If you get into say this stage of
4 the season, there is very minimal harvest. If there
5 could be maybe additional permits made available, I
6 would have tried last spring because conditions were
7 good.

8

9 MR. WALSH: Yeah, we did address that
10 and we don't want to make permit availability any kind
11 of limitation to achieving these harvest goals. So
12 this year 300 permits were made available and if
13 there's more demand, which I don't think there's going
14 to be any demand, but if there was more demand, there
15 would be no sense to not issue more permits.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks. Great.
18 This year I made sure to get one and now I just can't
19 get down there. Also, I think there's a fair number of
20 folks that have planes there in Dillingham. I think
21 some of them would be eager for same day airborne
22 opportunities. That's kind of a neat idea to explore
23 for C&T qualified people.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The problem
28 with that area, we have an airplane and we go down
29 there to attempt to pick berries along the coast and a
30 lot of times we can't land because of the washboard
31 beach. The only place we could land is that Picnic
32 Beach, but that's too far away from anywhere there's
33 berries and probably anywhere -- I don't know. Unless
34 somebody is young and healthy and would pack their
35 harvest, but that would be work unless somebody goes
36 out there with a helicopter to harvest.

37

38 I know that Aleknagik and Clarks Point
39 were giving their permits to -- even Togiak were giving
40 their permits to Manokotak.

41

42 MR. WALSH: That's right.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: They weren't
45 able to use -- they haven't been able to use all those
46 permits because of transportation issue -- no, the
47 condition to get over to that area to hunt.

48

49 MR. WALSH: Right. The hunt
50 participants have mostly been Manokotak and Dillingham.

1 Even though other people are able to they -- for those
2 reasons you described they don't.

3
4 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. It's really
5 terrible being eight days older than gravel when you
6 remember back so far, but Dick Armstrong used to take
7 guys from Goodnews to Johnson Hill and those guys would
8 camp out. They'd take 15, 20 caribou in two days back
9 over to Togiak and Manokotak and all those places
10 because they had such huge herds of 18,000. But I
11 think if you're going to do same day airborne, it would
12 have to be done probably January through March or
13 something. It couldn't be fall.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: They can land on the
16 beach. Pardon me for interrupting, but there's some
17 folks who land on the beach. I know of a couple
18 brothers. I think they took some sort of mini-bike
19 down. Landed on the beach and then buzzed along on the
20 beach until they found some caribou close to the beach
21 or something like that.

22
23 MR. WALSH: Yeah, there's exceptional
24 stories that really aren't the solution to the problem.
25 It's something that would provide a more consistent
26 harvest pressure, more like what Mr. O'Hara has
27 mentioned than the situation you're mentioning, Dan. I
28 know that story too.

29
30 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. He should
31 thank us because we trained those caribou good.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. WALSH: We know and we thank you.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll thank you too
38 because the one time I shot a caribou down there, he
39 didn't have much for horns, but he was the fattest,
40 glossiest, most beautiful caribou. I still remember
41 that.

42
43 MR. JONES: I've got a question. When
44 you pick an area like this, do you pick it because it's
45 easy for you to access it or how do you do this? How
46 come you don't go out in the middle of the tundra
47 somewhere and do a study on them?

48
49 MR. WALSH: We picked this area because
50 there was only one Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd and

1 we don't have any other caribou herds under Federal
2 management. So if we had another one somewhere out in
3 the tundra somewhere, we'd go study that one too.

4
5 MR. JONES: I was just curious because
6 my area doesn't have too many caribou. I don't hear
7 you guys doing a lot of studies down there for this.

8
9 MR. WALSH: I can't talk to whoever
10 deals with your area. I just have my own area to deal
11 with.

12
13 MR. JONES: Oh, the other question I
14 had was how do you tag these wolves? What do you do?
15 Do you trap them or.....

16
17 MR. WALSH: The wolves are darted out
18 of helicopters with an immobilizer drug.

19
20 MR. O'HARA: It's not harassment. It's
21 a study that they do.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. JONES: Oh, I see. Okay. I was
26 just curious how you -- because you said you caught
27 some with tags on them already.

28
29 MR. WALSH: Yeah. They're the easy
30 ones to catch because you already know where they are.
31 The harder ones to catch are those that you've got to
32 do it the sporting way.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. JONES: I was just curious, you
37 know. You said the batteries were bad in them.

38
39 MR. WALSH: Batteries last about a year
40 for that kind of collar and that kind of schedule where
41 we're getting eight locations per day. You can program
42 them to last different amounts of time, but in order to
43 accomplish these objectives we needed to do it that
44 way.

45
46 MR. JONES: So at any given point you
47 can go up and find your collars?

48
49 MR. WALSH: I'm sorry, say that again.
50

1 MR. JONES: At any given point you can
2 go up and find where these.....

3
4 MR. WALSH: Theoretically. Sometimes
5 it doesn't work that well. Sometimes you can't find
6 them if they're not where you expect them to be.
7 You've got to find them by listening to a VHF radio
8 signal, just a standard radio signal, and if they're 10
9 or 20 miles away from where you are, you may not hear
10 it. Or if they're sheltered by terrain, like in a
11 steep canyon somewhere, you may not find them. But
12 generally you can find them based on the radio
13 transmitter.

14
15 MR. JONES: So you go out -- like
16 whenever you start your study you just go out and fly
17 around until you get active collars and then you go
18 from there.

19
20 MR. WALSH: To begin the study we first
21 do reconnaissance type work to figure out where the
22 wolf packs are and then we'll have one or two Super
23 Cubs, working in a spotter aircraft that will track the
24 wolves when there's good snow to track them in. When
25 they find a wolf pack, then they'll call in the
26 helicopter that has a gun crew, the dart gun crew, and
27 that group will then dart animals in that wolf pack
28 while the spotter crews go off and look for more
29 wolves.

30
31 Once you've initially gotten collars on
32 these wolves, then it's far easier to keep up with the
33 packs and maintain collars on them. It doesn't take as
34 much effort to do that as the initial capture.

35
36 MR. JONES: So most of them that
37 migrate into different areas they stay in those areas
38 or they come back to your area?

39
40 MR. WALSH: I think what you're talking
41 about is those that disperse away, like the two and
42 three year old wolves that have just changed from being
43 a pup to becoming an adult, those disperse away and
44 they don't come back. They're looking to establish a
45 pack of their own, so they're looking for a mate,
46 they're looking for terrain that they can either take
47 away from another wolf pack or that there's no other
48 wolf pack present there. Some of them travel for
49 hundreds of miles and never find that because an
50 established wolf pack doesn't tolerate non-pack members

1 in its area. They kill each other. The studies where
2 there's no human hunting, the highest predation source
3 or mortality source in wolves are other wolves.
4
5 MR. JONES: That explains why your pack
6 stays the same number.
7
8 MR. WALSH: That helps explain it,
9 yeah.
10
11 MR. JONES: Okay. That's all I had.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Do they tag wolves when
16 they kill them or -- you know, I've never killed a
17 wolf. Like a beaver, they tag beaver. So there must
18 be some.....
19
20 MR. WALSH: Yeah, hides are brought in
21 to be.....
22
23 MR. O'HARA: The snowmachine people
24 must kill some wolves over there in your packs.
25
26 MR. WALSH: Yeah, they did, and during
27 the course of this five-year study that one big stable
28 pack sustained mortality most years by hunters and
29 trappers, but not the kind that would decimate a pack
30 in one event like you've described here earlier. That
31 eventually happened just at the point in time where we
32 were concluding the study. It happens. In the other
33 packs we studied one of the packs was shot down to one
34 wolf in year one. In year two it was shot down to one
35 wolf and then has found another mate. Year three all
36 the pups were lost and down to just two wolves. Then,
37 in the last year of the study it produced 10 and
38 maintained 10. So things change.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
41 comments or questions.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
46 Pat. Next on the agenda is National Park Service.
47 Finally got you up here, Mary.
48
49 MS. MCBURNEY: Good morning, Madame
50 Chair. For the record, my name is Mary McBurney. I am

1 the chief of Cultural Resources for Lake Clark National
2 Park. I think the one thing I want to mention first
3 off is that you may notice that my job title has
4 changed. There has been kind of a reorganization
5 between Lake Clark and Katmai, Aniakchak, those Park
6 units. Troy Hamon is now heading up the subsistence
7 efforts for Katmai and Aniakchak. I am now heading up
8 the Cultural Resources Division, which now has
9 subsistence rolled into it. So you'll be seeing me now
10 listed as the chief of Cultural Resources.

11
12 Before I get started here, there is a
13 little bit of holdover business from the last RAC
14 meeting. Unfortunately I spent most of my time at the
15 last RAC meeting sitting around the Anchorage airport
16 trying to get here and in the end was unsuccessful.

17
18 So we do have one seat on the Lake
19 Clark SRC that is currently held by Mr. Thomas Hedlund
20 and his position it up for reappointment. Since the
21 Bristol Bay RAC is the appointing authority for that
22 seat, I wanted to bring this letter to you from the SRC
23 that is requesting your action on this and encouraging
24 your reappointment of Mr. Hedlund to the SRC.

25
26 Incidentally, I believe Sherri Anderson
27 will also be bringing up a letter from the Aniakchak
28 SRC, another one that I would have presented last
29 October regarding reappointment of Mark Kosbruk.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I move to
34 reappoint Tinny Hedlund for that position in Lake Clark
35 SRC.

36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll second that.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
40 motion to reappoint Thomas Hedlund to the SRC, seconded
41 by Nanci. Is there any comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MR. O'HARA: Question.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question
48 has been called. All in favor say aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1
2 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
3 opposition.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
8 Welcome.
9
10 MR. HEDLUND: Thank you.
11
12 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Also going around the table now is just a quick program
14 update for Lake Clark National Park. I'm not going to
15 go through these individually, but these are just
16 mostly for your information. I have with me on the
17 teleconference the wildlife biologist for Lake Clark
18 National Park and this is just really fortuitous
19 following up on Pat's presentation.
20
21 Buck Mangipane has also been working on
22 a wolf study for Lake Clark National Park and I believe
23 his has also been about a five-year-long study and this
24 is going into the last year. At the last meeting I had
25 mentioned that we would have Buck available to make a
26 presentation to the RAC at this meeting.
27
28 So what I'd like to do at this time is
29 turn the mic over to Buck and have him make his
30 presentation.
31
32 MR. MANGIPANE: Madame Chair and
33 Council members. Hopefully you can hear me.
34
35 REPORTER: You're pretty soft.
36
37 MR. MANGIPANE: Can you guys hear me
38 now?
39
40 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes.
41
42 MR. MANGIPANE: Okay. As Mary had
43 mentioned, we've been conducting a wolf study here
44 looking at wolf ecology over the last five years.
45 We're entering our final year of the study this year
46 and we're still optimistic that winter conditions will
47 come and we'll get one more capture effort and continue
48 to monitor wolves in the Park. During this study we've
49 actually caught 22 individual wolves for 28 total
50 captures. As Pat had indicated, many times you

1 recapture multiple individuals utilizing the collar and
2 that kind of gives you that connection to packs and
3 also, in our case, allowed us to take biological
4 samples over multiple years.

5
6 Packs in Lake Clark have generally been
7 pretty small. Average size is about five. We've had
8 them as large as seven and as small as three, but
9 generally they've been, again, kind of near that size
10 of five and changing seasonally as pups are born and
11 pups are ultimately lost, yearlings, dispersed to other
12 areas. The number of territories within Lake Clark
13 interior has ranged from four to six. They've been
14 rather large on average. Territories have ranged from
15 700 to 2,000 square miles probably with average coming
16 in around 1,200 miles, so very large. Some packs
17 utilize pretty extensive portions of the Park and some
18 use it in very small levels.

19
20 The total numbers of wolves using the
21 interior when you look at packs, transient wolves, lone
22 wolves, generally have been around the low 30s, so not
23 a huge number. When you start looking at it from a
24 density standpoint, like Pat was comparing his
25 densities of wolves to bears, you know, if we look at
26 the interior of Lake Clark we probably have, if we
27 combined brown and black bears, 50 times more brown or
28 black bears per unit area than we would wolves.

29
30 We see relatively good productivity.
31 The wolves have generally produced somewhere between
32 two and six pups. What we have noticed is that through
33 the winter we've seen some pretty significant loss at
34 times, you know, entire packs to trapping. Generally
35 we haven't seen more than three pups as we get into
36 late winter into the following spring with the pack.

37
38 We've seen high levels of dispersal
39 with wolves. As was mentioned, wolves have come to
40 Lake Clark. We have reciprocated and wolves have left
41 Lake Clark and went to areas near Bethel, Togiak.
42 We've had them go down to Katmai and also into the
43 mountain and to the coast. So that's another mechanism
44 that tends to keep our pack sizes small and numbers
45 relatively low.

46
47 Mortality of those 22 wolves, 15 have
48 died, a variety of causes. Primarily due to harvest.
49 Many of the wolves from subsistence trappers and
50 hunters and also as they disperse into adjacent areas

1 where hunting and trapping is taking place. We've had
2 wolves taken by both of those means. Other than that,
3 as Pat had mentioned as well, wolf on wolf mortality is
4 probably the next most common. We've only had that
5 happen between two packs, but it essentially wiped out
6 one pack during one of those events.

7
8 One of our interests was in learning
9 more about wolf diet in Lake Clark. As many of you are
10 well aware of, the changing patterns of the Mulchatna
11 Caribou Herd have definitely affected kind of the
12 western portion of the Park with only a small number of
13 caribou kind of moving through seasonally, so we
14 expected there to be some change in diet for wolves.

15
16 One of the things we did notice is that
17 obviously moose being kind of ubiquitous within the
18 interior of the Park become the most common prey.
19 Several of the packs in the western area that have some
20 of the larger territories do utilize caribou at least
21 seasonally when they're moving through their territory,
22 but they're not generally available year round, so
23 moose tend to be the species that kind of bears the
24 brunt.

25
26 We've also had Dall sheep through the
27 interior of the Park. We had one pack that was
28 relatively small that seemed to specialize on sheep for
29 a period of time, but as that pack produced pups and
30 grew, we noticed there was kind of a transition from
31 them hunting sheep to moving into the lowlands and
32 hunting moose on a more regular basis.

33
34 The other noteworthy finding has been
35 use of salmon and that has been something that has been
36 reported elsewhere, but one of the things we were
37 really curious about was did packs use that to support
38 themselves with kind of low levels of other prey
39 density that we currently had. What we found is in the
40 summer several packs used salmon significantly, up to
41 50 percent of what we determined to be their diet was
42 salmon.

43
44 We also saw in some instances in early
45 winter and late winter as either the ice was coming on
46 and fish were still available or the ice going out and
47 fish were thawing out. Some of the packs were able to
48 use fish during those kind of seasons to kind of
49 supplement the traditional terrestrial prey diet.

50

1 I guess kind of the last thing of
2 notice, as mentioned, this is moving into the last year
3 of the study. We're optimistic now, even though it's
4 been an extremely mild winter, we're hoping for
5 favorable snow conditions, weather conditions, so that
6 we can have a capture effort. We have 12 collars to
7 put out. We currently had -- as of a month ago, we had
8 three wolves collared, but one of those collars
9 actually was chewed to the point of falling off the
10 wolf. Another appears to have failed and the last
11 appears to have been a mortality of a wolf. So we're
12 kind of down to zero and hoping to move back beyond
13 that.

14
15 All right. So I'm not sure if that
16 worked as well as I'd like. I would have obviously
17 liked to have been there in person to share more
18 information, but that kind of covers some of the basics
19 that we found up to this point. If you guys have any
20 questions, I'd be happy to make an attempt to answer.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

23
24 MR. O'HARA: Hey, Buck, can you hear
25 me?

26
27 MR. MANGIPANE: Yes. Speak up maybe
28 just a touch.

29
30 MR. O'HARA: I'll get closer to the
31 mic. I was watching a documentary on Katmai Park on
32 the Pacific side and it showed a wolf pack of about
33 five, I think, and this mother brown bear had three
34 cubs and she went into the brush with the cubs and the
35 wolves were following them and when she came out she
36 only had two cubs, so I was wondering is there a
37 predation on brown bear cubs by wolves in your area or
38 is that not a good question?

39
40 MR. MANGIPANE: We have not seen that
41 in the interior, but I have had a report from one of
42 our (indiscernible) on the coastal portion of Lake
43 Clark and they were fairly confident that a pack of
44 wolves using the coast had preyed on brown bear cubs
45 near Chinitna Bay. They didn't actually observe it,
46 but had seen lots of wolf sign and actually had seen
47 wolves in the area and then ultimately one of the sows
48 with -- I believe they were cubs of the year. The
49 assumption was that the wolves were responsible. They
50 obviously didn't directly document that, but it doesn't

1 seem that it's impossible. Yeah, we've yet to see that
2 directly.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Molly. Yeah,
7 Buck, did you say approximately the whole population of
8 wolves in the Park you have an estimate on that?

9

10 MR. MANGIPANE: We do. What we're
11 looking at is we look at the known packs and in snow
12 tracking areas where there appears to be voids or
13 single animals that we've had either harvested by
14 trappers or we'd seen a sign of -- generally during
15 this study we've had somewhere in the low 30s, probably
16 less than 35. From the high 20s to low 30s in the
17 interior of the Park total numbers.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks, Buck. Do you
20 think that's kind of been consistent for a while? I
21 just remember when I was working over near Iliamna and
22 this is outside the Park area, but George Hornberger
23 was telling me of seeing some really large packs of
24 wolves. I think they might have been southeast of the
25 Park, but I was just wondering how consistent do you
26 think that population is.

27

28 MR. MANGIPANE: You know, there is lots
29 of evidence or at least information from local folks
30 looking at historic packs sizes and numbers and they
31 tend to be somewhat larger. One of the things within
32 the state of Alaska generally wolf packs are noticeably
33 or somewhat larger. It seems like many studies average
34 seven to eight wolves, so we're kind of on the low end
35 of that.

36

37 But one of the things we've seen at
38 least in the last 20 years here in Lake Clark it's been
39 some fairly dramatic changes in prey density. Our
40 moose numbers have declined pretty dramatically.
41 They've stabilized slightly over the last several
42 years, but the numbers and the density is noticeably
43 lower than you would have seen in the '90s. Obviously
44 the movements of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd have made
45 them much less available. The likelihood in the past
46 of a larger prey base supporting these large packs
47 seems very plausible, but given kind of the current
48 state of your traditional typical terrestrial wolf
49 prey, the numbers we have are probably fairly
50 appropriate.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
4 questions.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
9 Thank you.
10
11 Do you have any additional comments?
12
13 MS. MCBURNEY: No, Madame Chair, I
14 don't, unless there are any questions from the
15 commission members.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No, I guess
20 not. Thank you.
21
22 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you.
23
24 MR. MANGIPANE: Thank you, Madame
25 Chair.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Continuing on
28 with the National Park Service.
29
30 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair and members of
31 the Council. My name is Troy Hamon. I'm the natural
32 resource and now also the cultural resource manager for
33 the National Park Service lands that are managed out of
34 King Salmon. With me today I have Sherri Anderson, who
35 is our wildlife biologist for the Park.
36
37 A couple of things to start with, the
38 Aniakchak SRC had a meeting last fall. We tried to
39 have a meeting this last spring, actually just this
40 last month, and we were unsuccessful in getting people,
41 including ourselves, where we needed to be, so we had a
42 work session by teleconference. What we do have right
43 now is a pretty full SRC, but we have a seat that's
44 expired and that's the letter before you. Mark
45 Kosbruk, Sr. from Port Heiden has been on the SRC and
46 his appointment is up and that is an appointment we'd
47 like to have renewed if it serves the pleasure of the
48 Council.
49
50 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: At this time, if we could,
4 I'd make a motion that we would replace Mark Kosbruk,
5 Sr. on the SRC for Aniakchak.
6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll second that.
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
9 motion by Dan O'Hara to reappoint Mark Kosbruk, Sr. to
10 the Aniakchak SRC, seconded by Nanci.
11
12 MR. O'HARA: Call for question.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question
15 has been called. All in favor say aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
21 opposition.
22
23 (No opposing votes)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
26 Thank you.
27
28 MR. HAMON: On the table over here
29 there were some updates from our office and there are
30 just a few brief things. We had an update from Sherri,
31 our wildlife biologist, and what she's done here is
32 summarize all of our moose surveys for the fall. What
33 we did in the month of November is we flew moose
34 composition surveys even though we had poor snow
35 conditions. In many cases we feel like we probably
36 covered the area fairly well. What we've been hoping
37 to do for three winters in a row now is follow that up
38 with survey conditions in better snow conditions in
39 February. That hasn't quite worked out this winter.
40
41 We have transitioned into a process
42 where we are flying the trend area counts in the fall
43 regardless of snow condition. We can use that to get
44 bull:cow ratios, calf:cow ratios and those numbers are
45 presented here. What we don't have a good handle on is
46 how well those relate to the actual counts that we
47 would get if we had better snow conditions that the
48 surveys were designed around. We will continue to try
49 to get those conditions so that we can compare these
50 results.

1 As it is, the calf:cow ratio, which is
2 maybe one of the most critical things, is quite good
3 for the counts that we did. Overall it averaged about
4 40 and that's fairly high. That's not consistent among
5 all survey areas and there's quite a variation. You'll
6 see that in others. In our case, the bull:cow ratio is
7 fairly good as well.

8
9 Sherri has been working on compiling
10 this and we're hoping to have it -- we were talking
11 about just the density of numbers that we get in these.
12 We're hoping to have something that's a little more
13 friendly to the eye to understand, but we haven't
14 managed to figure out how to present that. There's a
15 lot of pieces and parts to a survey effort.

16
17 Were there questions about what we do
18 have here?

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

21
22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I have a
23 question. There's some major differences with the
24 Aniakchak numbers, 2 calves to 14 cows. I guess my
25 question is how are these, knowing that the survey
26 conditions were poor, how are these comparing to your
27 previous surveys? Have you got concern going on with
28 numbers and the direction that these are headed on any
29 particular bunches of these?

30
31 MR. HAMON: I'll give you what I think
32 is the answer and Sherri can fix it if I screw it up.
33 Many of these areas are pretty standard within the
34 range of what we used to see when we were doing surveys
35 with more snow. The range used to be larger where we
36 would have some counts that were much higher than what
37 we have here, but the Park Border and the Branch and
38 the Angle, Takayofu trend areas are all sort of within
39 the 20-year range.

40
41 Cinder River -- we, in our office, have
42 not usually been the ones that survey that, so I don't
43 have much personal experience with what those numbers
44 look like and I don't remember -- it seemed low to us
45 when we were down there and Aniakchak is one of our
46 goals. We've spent most of this month trying to figure
47 out how we were going to get the Meshik and the Pacific
48 trend areas done and we just have not quite had the
49 weather to make it happen even with bad snow cover.

50

1 MS. ANDERSON: Madame Chair. I'm
2 Sherri Anderson from Katmai. I've been working really
3 close with Chris Peterson from Alaska Fish and Game
4 trying to figure out new ways to survey Aniakchak
5 because neither department can get down there. We've
6 been comparing data and our numbers in Aniakchak are
7 really low compared to past information, but we don't
8 know if that's just because when we survey they're not
9 in the area or is something else happening to the herds
10 down there. Because we don't get down there
11 frequently, we don't know what's happening.

12
13 MR. HAMON: Just to follow up on that.
14 One of the problems with the data we have is we only
15 made one trend area down there and one trend area is
16 enough to get our attention, but it's not enough to
17 tell us anything. We really need to get the other two.
18 But it certainly got our attention.

19
20 MS. MORRIS LYON: So then as a follow
21 up, from what I understand you're saying, yes, it's
22 something that you're going to have to watch and try
23 and follow up with to see how accurate you were before
24 you got more information to know whether to panic or
25 not in a sense.

26
27 MR. HAMON: Well, certainly, although
28 the other thing is, it's true that we have business
29 operators that rely on those areas for guided hunt
30 opportunities and since I'm not on the law enforcement
31 side I don't usually have a chance to visit with those
32 guys. We've had a transition in a few cases here in
33 Katmai and one of our Aniakchak business operators from
34 a long time operator to new and I'm hoping that we can
35 -- I'm hoping that Sherri or I can be present when we
36 have a face to face so that we can at least get a sense
37 of what their understanding of the resource landscape
38 is to see if it matches what we think we're seeing and
39 also to see if we can make sure that we have a shared
40 conservation ethic. When they have an opportunity to
41 take more hunters than the current game will sustain, I
42 would like to have a sense of whether they understand
43 that that's a responsibility that we're hoping they pay
44 attention to.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

47
48 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Madame Chair.
49 Troy, how many moose have been taken down there in that
50 area? I see that the numbers -- you've got 9 bulls, 2

1 calves and 14 cows were sighted just in that area. Is
2 that a good portion of where the hunting is going on?
3 How many moose are traditionally taken down there? To
4 kind of correlate what's happening here.

5
6 MS. ANDERSON: So Fish and Game hasn't
7 released the numbers from the resident hunt down there
8 from this past hunt, but we had no moose taken from the
9 CUA hunts this season.

10
11 MR. HAMON: And the hunt concession
12 that reports to us operates not just within our
13 boundary, so that doesn't mean they didn't harvest, but
14 they didn't actually harvest in our boundary this year.
15 There are other years where they do take out three,
16 five, eight moose. It depends on the year. This year
17 we had low counts and they had no harvest within our
18 boundary.

19
20 MR. WILSON: So is that an indication
21 that there's less moose? You're saying that you've
22 only done one survey in a portion there, but it kind of
23 sounds like it stands to reason that the population
24 there is at least seriously low.

25
26 MR. HAMON: Like I said, I certainly am
27 concerned with the numbers we see, which is one of the
28 reasons why I want to visit with the operator and see
29 what they see. As far as the overall landscape, even
30 this trend area is only one small corner of Aniakchak.
31 It might account for 15 to 20 percent of the Aniakchak
32 land mass I suspect. So even within the -- we have
33 three commercial guides that operate down there, it
34 accounts for less than half of even the one area that
35 it includes. So very much not a full picture.

36
37 When we do trend areas, I prefer to err
38 on the side of showing you what the numbers are, but
39 any one trend area is really something you have to be
40 careful about going too far with. It got our attention
41 and we're -- we've been trying all winter to get a more
42 full picture and failed at it so far, but we are going
43 to do that and that's our focus for -- Aniakchak has
44 been our concern all winter now and we're going to make
45 that our first survey stop for whatever we can
46 accomplish probably for the next couple years now.

47
48 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Troy. The flag
49 that I'm throwing up is -- you know, when do you say
50 enough is enough for commercial? When is the

1 population -- are we going to wait and if we don't get
2 any good surveys in the next two years, are we going to
3 keep just waiting for surveys and the numbers keep
4 dropping? They're down there way low. I mean so when
5 is enough enough? When do we stop commercial use and
6 just go for subsistence reasons, C&Ts? That's a flag
7 that I throw up when I see small numbers like this.
8 Yeah, you can't get the surveys, but how long do we
9 wait before we realize there's a problem? If there is
10 a problem, we need to fix it like quick.

11
12 MR. HAMON: So there's two pieces to
13 that. One is that the State is the managing agency for
14 the hunt that these guides are participating in. Two,
15 historically we've had pretty good success with guides
16 moderating their activity based on the resource
17 availability. Again, with new operators, we don't
18 always necessarily expect them to have that same
19 conservation ethic, so we're hoping to have a little
20 visit about that.

21
22 The other part of that is that we
23 actually have a lot of ability to control the activity
24 of our hunt guide operators in their annual operating
25 plan, including which species they area or aren't going
26 to be pursuing. So, like I say, we intend to have a
27 visit with them. We do have some things that we can do
28 in the short term if the Council wanted to start
29 discussing the larger scale things.

30
31 At this point, with the limitation of
32 the data that we have, I won't be recommending a Board
33 of Game action because I think I don't have enough to
34 defend that and I certainly think the Board of Game
35 would be a little bit hesitant to act based on a single
36 trend area survey. But I agree with you that we need
37 to be proactive.

38
39 That's why within the things that we
40 can do we're going to try to have a visit with the
41 operators and make sure that their plans and their
42 client bookings are consistent with what the area can
43 handle. When we tell them they can take a number of
44 clients, it doesn't tell them which species they have
45 to be harvesting with those clients. Most of the
46 operators down there are primarily harvesting bears.

47
48 MR. O'HARA: I'm not so sure about
49 that.
50

1 MR. HAMON: Okay. Well, certainly
2 that's what we have reported historically.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I
5 understand that it's under State reg that they can go
6 in there, but it is Federal lands and it is under your
7 control. So I would -- I don't know. My flag is going
8 up even higher. I mean it's like, you know, instead of
9 waiting for a catastrophe -- I think, you know, to be
10 -- you talk about being proactive, you know. This is
11 maybe a situation where if it's been a couple years and
12 the numbers have been low and we're really not seeing
13 an increase in numbers, even in the take portion of it,
14 I can see a closure here on the commercial side of
15 things, you know, for that. To me, that's pretty
16 serious. I'd rather be on the cautious side rather
17 than not. That's my opinion.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: John.

20
21 MR. JONES: I know three different
22 families that took their boats out to Aniakchak to do
23 the moose hunt. There was more wolves out there. None
24 of them got a moose out there. But the wolf population
25 in Aniakchak is really getting out of hand, I think.

26
27 MR. O'HARA: Their boats were on the
28 Pacific side?

29
30 MR. JONES: Yeah, Pacific side. So I
31 was just kind of curious, the guy they were to study,
32 how come he isn't down there studying that?

33
34 MR. HAMON: I'm sorry, I didn't --
35 could you repeat the last.

36
37 MR. JONES: Well, I was just kind of
38 curious. The wolf population, if they're killing the
39 moose calves, is there a study down there for -- to see
40 what's happening there?

41
42 MR. HAMON: The Fish and Wildlife
43 Service in King Salmon has had a longstanding wolf
44 study that's been wrapping up these last few years and
45 I expect that it's reported in this handout that's on
46 the table, although I haven't read it yet. The bulk of
47 that work has been Aniakchak and north, like between
48 Katmai and Aniakchak. There's a number of things that
49 they've done. We have not been seeing very many wolves
50 this winter during our moose surveys. We usually see

1 wolves. I want to say that we saw four wolves in the
2 Cinder River area and that was the entirety of what we
3 saw when we were surveying.

4
5 The data that Fish and Wildlife has,
6 I'll let their presentation or their report speak to
7 that, but I don't think it specifically covers
8 Aniakchak. It includes wolves that have been in and
9 out down there, but it's mostly between here and there.

10
11 MR. JONES: Well, I haven't been around
12 Chignik too long, just a little over 40 years, and I've
13 been in Aniakchak quite a bit of times, you know. Now
14 you go in there to anchor up at nighttime that's all
15 you hear howling is wolves. They actually see them
16 chasing bears during the summer. So I was just kind of
17 curious what kind of control is going to be happening
18 in there for those. I mean they must be getting the
19 moose too. It's just a question.

20
21 MR. HAMON: Yeah. The study that Fish
22 and Wildlife has been conducting includes a lot of
23 elements and some of those include documentation of
24 what the prey items have been and they have molecular
25 ways to do that even without observing events. The
26 person in charge of that study is Dom Watts and he's
27 been, I think, five or six years working on it. I
28 haven't gotten a chance to speak with him in the last
29 few months about it, but they have a lot of data.

30
31 There's a lot of variety of what the
32 wolves down there eat and that's true across the
33 Peninsula, but I don't know if he's been able to
34 identify a difference between what the variety is and
35 whether there's a required sort of staple item that
36 makes it work for them. So there has been a -- well,
37 actually Sherri has the wolf harvest data from Fish and
38 Game. I'll let her share those with you.

39
40 MR. JONES: The other thing I was going
41 to tell you is I used to do the charter for the people
42 that went out there during the summer from June to
43 August. They went out there to dig up the artifacts
44 that were up on the hill there. Talking with those
45 guys there, they said they seen more changeover from
46 bears to wolves and now it's back -- what, the last
47 time they were in there was, what, six years ago,
48 something like that.

49
50 MS. ANDERSON: So the Aniakchak SRC

1 group asked me to report on the wolf take. Since the
2 intensive management program went into effect in 9E,
3 which was in 2008, 177 wolves have been removed from
4 that area.

5
6 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. How did
7 they get removed?

8
9 MS. ANDERSON: Most of that was by
10 trappers and townspeople that were hunting them. The
11 State did go in and shoot a few high numbers in a
12 couple of years, but the total has been 177 since 2008.
13

14 MR. JONES: So you're actually talking
15 about the people in Port Heiden and Chignik Lake and
16 Pilot Point which are shooting all these -- and you're
17 adding them to the.....

18
19 MS. ANDERSON: Yes, sir. That's people
20 that have gone out and hunted and those are the people
21 that have trapped from all those different villages and
22 the total number was 177.

23
24 MR. JONES: But that isn't as far into
25 the Park Service Refuge.

26
27 MS. ANDERSON: Right. We.....

28
29 MR. JONES: All of them are in town
30 sites.

31
32 MS. ANDERSON: That I can't tell you,
33 exactly where each wolf was hunted. I was just asked
34 to give the numbers. So I can't tell you exactly where
35 each wolf was taken.

36
37 MR. HAMON: That just depends where the
38 hunters go.

39
40 MR. JONES: Yeah, they just need to go
41 a little farther away, I guess, to really cut down on
42 the population of them. Yeah, they're up farther. I
43 noticed that even out of the Park Service, you know,
44 like Castle Bay and around Castle Cape there's getting
45 to be more wolves running the beach in the summertime.
46 So just wondering if that's knocking down on the
47 animals because the ones that are out in Castle Bay you
48 notice if you go in to Portage or anywhere like that
49 you don't see moose anymore in there either. It must
50 be wolf killing moose.

1 MR. HAMON: Are there other questions
2 on that before we turn it over.
3
4 MR. O'HARA: I have a question.
5
6 MR. HAMON: Go ahead, Dan.
7
8 MR. O'HARA: You have three guides in
9 the Meshik/Aniakchak area, right? You've got -- Butch
10 King used to have Cinder River and maybe 10 or 12 moose
11 taken out of there by him, and then you've got Joe
12 Klutsch over in Meshik and then you've got Jay King
13 down in the Lower Meshik. The two things that I want
14 to bring your attention to, you've been in Aniakchak,
15 right, at the crater?
16
17 MR. HAMON: Yes, sir.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: Okay. So you go through
20 that little gate, called the Gates of Hell and my early
21 years of flying when I didn't have enough experience I
22 went in there on a windy day and never again. That was
23 not a fun ride. It was overcast, so you had to go to
24 the entrance. So that Park boundary is -- it's State
25 land coming up to -- as the hill goes up from Port
26 Heiden.
27
28 And I'm driving at the point that these
29 residents of -- I'm glad John brought up the Chignik
30 people and Perryville possibly coming up here to get
31 moose and not getting a moose, and then the Port Heiden
32 people coming up the mountainside with their
33 four-wheelers on State land to get into the Aniakchak
34 Preserve or whatever it's called. Where is that
35 boundary compared to the west side of the Aniakchak
36 crater, the Federal boundary?
37
38 MR. HAMON: The Federal boundary is a
39 few miles down slope.
40
41 MR. O'HARA: Down slope.
42
43 MR. HAMON: Yeah, toward Port Heiden.
44 And if you look at the imagery, it is above the brush
45 line. We've visited with some folks in Port Heiden.
46 The trails that they use to access that upper slope
47 through the brush and through the swamp have been
48 pretty beat up. So the Park Service has a program, the
49 Rivers and Trails Program, that does work outside of
50 Park boundaries and they're working on putting together

1 a request to improve that so that they're not tearing
2 up their own swamp and redoing the trail to get them at
3 least up toward the Park boundary.

4

5 MR. O'HARA: Let's get a little closer
6 to home here. You can't go into the Aniakchak Preserve
7 with a recreational vehicle, can you?

8

9 MR. HAMON: That's correct.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: So then actually they
12 really can't get to the moose that are only on the
13 State boundaries then that they're getting because
14 they'll bring bulls off of that hill. I've seen them
15 in their yards. In fact, I talked with a guy that got
16 one. It was a nice one.

17

18 MR. HAMON: So I have spent quite a bit
19 of time in the caldera and I've spent quite a bit of
20 time on the caldera flank and you do have bull moose up
21 there up until the vegetation runs out. You see
22 animals everywhere there that you don't think you
23 should see, except I've never seen a moose in the
24 caldera and I've never seen a moose above -- within 200
25 yards of at least the brush line. So as far as it
26 goes, going in the caldera or to the upper slope of the
27 caldera for moose, I don't think I'm aware of anybody
28 ever doing it. It wouldn't be very effective.

29

30 MR. O'HARA: That's the point Richard
31 was making. You can shut the commercial guys down, but
32 it's not -- unless they get to be a lot of population
33 and they go over the hill, it's not going to help Port
34 Heiden any. That's the other question that you're
35 dealing with because you mainly deal with the Cinder
36 River Lodge, which is owned by someone else, not Butch
37 King. He sold that to somebody else. And then you've
38 got Joe Klutsch over the other side. No one is going
39 to go there. They're not going to come up the Port
40 Heiden area to get those animals. It's just not going
41 to happen.

42

43 But when I land in Ugashik and Pilot
44 Point and Port Heiden, the continual outcry is these
45 guys are killing off all the animals, but they could
46 never get to those areas for use. This Council right
47 here would say, yeah, shut them down and let's give the
48 moose back to the local people, but that's not the
49 issue because they're not going to get to those moose.
50 Unless they want to get on an airplane and go stay

1 overnight and kill an animal, that's the same thing the
2 guides are doing.

3
4 I remember packing moose out of Cinder
5 River and Tilly said you want a moose and I said yeah.
6 So I came home and got my airplane, went down there and
7 he gave me a whole moose. I flew it out. In the
8 interim, Butch was flying 10 or 12 moose to all the
9 villages with his Beaver and dropping moose in the
10 villages, which was really a good thing and he doesn't
11 get any credit for that, you know. We may have a few
12 other names for Butch King along the line, but we won't
13 put it on record, okay.

14
15 So this is an issue then that I guess I
16 want -- how does Tim Enright and Al Ivanoff and those
17 guys in their surrounding areas -- I never heard you
18 talking about moose that they have available once they
19 go to Ugashik 1 with their skiff into that lake up
20 there that has a lodge up on the hill. Do you count
21 the moose there? This Council is interested in not 35
22 miles away in the Cinder River from everybody in the
23 moose count, but what is happening with your boundary
24 in Ugashik 1, for instance, Troy?

25
26 MR. HAMON: Two things, Dan. One is
27 that your discussion about the location of the animal
28 harvest in relation to the access from villages is very
29 pertinent. This has been a topic that has come up
30 repeatedly as we try to talk about moose issues
31 throughout the region and this was one of Lem Butler's
32 primary things when he came to the Council seven, eight
33 years ago to slow us down on some things. For the most
34 part, not entirely, but for the most part the guided
35 harvest does not occur where locals actually focus
36 their efforts. That's not universal, but that
37 certainly has got a large element of truth to it.

38
39 The areas that you're talking about
40 that are up closer to Pilot Point and Ugashik are part
41 of the suite of areas that we try to do moose surveys,
42 but when I say we, it's generally not the Park Service
43 because those are associated with the Refuge and the
44 State lands. The moose surveys are done by the
45 National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service
46 and the State of Alaska and we coordinate and make sure
47 that we're not counting the same areas where possible.
48 When it's not possible to separate our efforts we try
49 to make intentional use of a second count so that we
50 can sort of verify how well we do.

1 We had a second count at Angle Takayofu
2 that was within two animals of our count and we had a
3 second count at Cinder River by the State of Alaska
4 that got blown out, so it's not quite as complete, but
5 they were within four animals of our count when they
6 got blown out.

7
8 So, in some ways, I feel like our
9 numbers are pretty good as far as accuracy. What I
10 don't have is what those interim -- what those in
11 between, including the Ugashik Flats counts, but Fish
12 and Wildlife Service is the most likely agency to have
13 done those. I know the areas that the State of Alaska
14 flew and they didn't fly those, but I suspect that
15 that's one of -- those areas or some of the ones close
16 to them would have been covered by Fish and Wildlife
17 Service. They do say that they did most of the
18 Ugashik, Blue Mountain and Mother Goose and Flats A and
19 B, so they were down there.

20
21 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. I stand
22 corrected. Ugashik 1 is U.S. Fish and Wildlife, which
23 I guess is not here today. Are they online or where
24 are they at? So that is interesting. And your
25 boundary from Aniakchak comes up and where does it stop
26 crossing the Cinder River or does it go that far?

27
28 MR. HAMON: Our boundary goes up and it
29 includes part of the Pumice Creek drainage, the upper
30 end of the Pumice Creek drainage, but the Pumice Creek
31 Lodge and trooper cabins are downstream of our
32 boundary. The Cinder River Lodge is upstream within
33 our boundary.....

34
35 MR. O'HARA: Oh, it is.

36
37 MR. HAMON:but if you go
38 downriver three, four or five miles, then you pass out
39 of our boundary on the State land.

40
41 MR. O'HARA: Ms. Anderson, DOA -- what
42 was that acronym? I didn't quite get that in your
43 presentation.

44
45
46 MR. HAMON: I'll answer that. That's a
47 commercial use authorization. I order to conduct
48 business within a National Park you have to have a
49 business permit from us and that can come -- there's a
50 number of levels of permits. If you have an

1 established base and a land assignment within a Park,
2 it has to be a full-on, competed concession contract.
3 Those are the Brooks Lodge or hunting guide operations.
4 If you conduct business in the Park that is primarily
5 based outside the Park so that you take people in to go
6 for the day, whether it's bear watching, sport fishing,
7 just backpacking, that requires a permit and that's a
8 commercial use authorization. It's a lower level
9 permit in terms of our processing.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. Yeah,
12 acronyms are not something that lay people can jump on,
13 but that's okay. Since you do such a good job with the
14 cubbies, we will accept whatever you say.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. O'HARA: Interesting at one of your
19 boundaries I was picking up bear hunters and there's
20 two older guys and they had a bear hide that weighed
21 about 150 pounds and sometimes they put three of those
22 in your airplane with three big guys and, my goodness.
23 Snow is bad enough without the weight. So I said how
24 was your hunt and they said fine. I think I told you
25 about this before. It's worth repeating because I
26 can't remember the last time I told it. And he said
27 fine. We were in our camp, ready to go to spike camp
28 and we decided to walk out and look around. This is in
29 the Cinder River area. And looked over and there was a
30 cow moose dropping a calf, so they got their video
31 camera out and videoed the calf drop. And then, as
32 they were looking at it, the moose dropped a second
33 calf, and as they were standing there out of the corner
34 of their eye they saw a movement and here come a 10-
35 foot bear, but it never got to the moose and I was
36 carrying this hide. So that saved two calves right
37 there. Nothing to do with the Park however.

38

39 MR. HAMON: The other side, we had a
40 lot of interest from the migratory bird management
41 group about birds and our coastal biologist included an
42 update here on some of the work on the coast where
43 we've been seeing a lot of birds over there. We have a
44 number of different survey processes in the middle of
45 summer, but we actually had a spring effort last year
46 where we get to fly through, so she documented that so
47 that people that were interested would be able to see
48 that as well.

49

50 MS. ANDERSON: Keeper of the Birds.

1 MR. HAMON: Keeper of the Birds. The
2 group had a lot of questions about the spring flyway
3 activity. And then as far as the coastal resource
4 update there, Amalik Bay is the only site where we have
5 field efforts planned and we always have ongoing issues
6 at Brooks Camp associated with managing the
7 infrastructure, including buried stuff that was buried
8 before they were careful and cognizant of cultural
9 resources.

10

11 The last thing on there is Jean Gamache
12 gave a presentation to the work session of the SRC
13 about the consultation policy that you heard yesterday.

14

15 The only other things I was going to
16 follow up on or mention were that we have been actively
17 trying to evaluate our plan for the western boundary of
18 the Park. A long time ago that boundary was drawn by
19 somebody without regard for sort of the impact on the
20 ground. We've had access through that area on ATVs on
21 the Pike Ridge Trail for a long time. Our intention is
22 to make that legal and to continue allowing it by
23 making it legal. We've continued to allow it by just
24 not looking.

25

26 There's a number of ways we could do
27 that and we are working with our regional office to
28 figure out which ones are most feasible and
29 expeditious. Some of them that would probably be the
30 most effective long term would involve congressional
31 action, which means they may never happen, so we're
32 trying to make sure we have other alternatives that we
33 can get done.

34

35 We spent a week in November in the Park
36 going through a strategic plan so a new superintendent
37 could get a sense of what we're doing and make sure
38 that we all agree on what we're trying to do. Pike
39 Ridge work is one of the primary elements in my group.

40

41 I guess the last two things that I had
42 in mind are that we do have local hire announcements.
43 They're over here. Those are just the ones that are
44 open right now. We have been announcing a lot of jobs
45 local hire wherever feasible. There's a couple of
46 specific criteria that we have to be able to answer to
47 to make sure that we're allowed to hire that way and
48 we've been working with trying to make sure that
49 they're posted in all the villages, but we've also been
50 trying to make sure that the Bristol Bay Native

1 Association is aware so they can help us recruit for
2 those. If there's anything that you know that we can
3 do to improve our ability to recruit for those local
4 hire jobs, we'd appreciate hearing that as well.

5
6 I don't have data as far as bear
7 numbers. The last three or four years our bear
8 activity is visibly lower in the Park than it had been
9 previously. I don't think it's anything other than the
10 cycle of salmon abundance, which is down a little bit,
11 but we don't have hard numbers to talk about that for
12 you.

13
14 I think that's all we have.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

17
18 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
19 Troy, you mentioned the Pikes Ridge Park boundary
20 there. You say you're spending a lot of attention or
21 time on that. What's your intentions there on the Park
22 boundary? I'm asking this because we, as a Native
23 corporation, are the landholders outside of that Park
24 boundary there. That trail that you were discussing
25 goes in and out of private lands and Park lands, so
26 what's your intentions there?

27
28 MR. HAMON: The trail starts by going
29 about six miles through Native corporation or village
30 corporation, I'm not sure which, land. It then passes
31 into the National Park Service boundary and then it
32 goes in and out of the Park boundary and I think in
33 most of that section it's going in and out of State and
34 Park land up there. We have a few alternatives that
35 we're trying not to turn it into a huge process. We're
36 trying to figure out which one will work. Things that
37 we could do include having a Congressional action to
38 move the boundary. That's the least likely one for us
39 to pursue just because of the timeframe of it.

40
41 MR. WILSON: Excuse me. Before you get
42 away from that thought, Congressional action for moving
43 the boundary from where to where?

44
45 MR. HAMON: Everything that we are
46 proposing to try to do would move our boundary from the
47 stair step to align it to the east of that trail so
48 that the trail would be outside of our boundary. That
49 would do two things. There's two problems. One is
50 that the trail itself is through the Park boundary, but

1 the other is that it's an impossible boundary for a
2 hunter to know. If we can align it with the trail, the
3 standard practice that we have recommended would be
4 actually legal, which is hunt on one side of the trail
5 and not on the other. So that's our preference. It
6 would align the legal basis for the action with what
7 people are doing.

8

9 What we are more likely to try to do is
10 an actual boundary adjustment. ANILCA gave the
11 National Park Service superintendents the authority to
12 move their boundaries. There's no other place on earth
13 I don't think where they can do that. They can do that
14 for a boundary adjustment of up to 25,000 acres. It's
15 such a huge thing compared to what is normal that
16 everybody is terrified to do it. Diane Chung is not
17 afraid to do it, but there is no precedent. It's never
18 been done anywhere. So we're spending a little bit of
19 time just trying to make sure that we don't get
20 crossways with the other folks that are in the regional
21 office as we try to figure out how to do it.

22

23 That I think is the most likely
24 solution. We could designate a trail that would allow
25 us to authorize ATV use on the trail within the Park.
26 It wouldn't solve the fact that you don't know where
27 you are when you're shooting your moose. So our
28 preference is to make it a solution that solves both
29 those problems.

30

31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Thanks,
32 Troy. That's kind of in a way exciting to know that
33 you have an option to move your boundaries back and
34 recede a bit, you know. Is that an exchange or is that
35 just decreasing your boundaries? Is there an exchange
36 program there where you shorten it up on one end and
37 you extend it on the other or how does that work?

38

39 MR. HAMON: There's nothing that
40 requires us to do an exchange. A land exchange is
41 another thing that's been discussed. The State of
42 Alaska is not real excited about a land exchange
43 because it will cost them and us more in time and money
44 than the value of land that's actually exchanged. For
45 us, it would help us to improve the sort of operational
46 landscape for the local residents and we're in favor of
47 it anyway. The State hasn't been very engaged when we
48 try to have this discussion.

49

50 If we redraw our boundary, we have the

1 ability to either have that land revert to the State
2 or, since it becomes unreserved Federal lands, it could
3 go under BLM management. It's a postage stamp problem
4 for them, so I don't know if they would be excited
5 about it. It may be that the land would revert to
6 State. Either way it would be accessible for the
7 purposes people want to use it for.

8

9 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Sorry for
10 taking up so much time, but this is something that's
11 very dear to our hearts here, as you all know, so I'm
12 glad you brought it up. I'm hoping that in the future
13 we can have -- you can bring those considerations to
14 our Councils or to our public here so we can chime in
15 on some of that as far as what some of the wishes are.

16

17

18 In the past years we've thought, well,
19 the last extension of the Park brought down from Ranger
20 Point on down to where it is now, which is, what, 10,
21 12 miles further south. When that happened, it
22 encompassed most of this hunting area that we're
23 talking about on that Pikes Ridge and up into the
24 mountain range there is primary for moose and for
25 trapping and stuff and that's been encompassed by the
26 Park. So the thought of possibly receding that back to
27 some point north and east of that could be substantial
28 for these communities here.

29

30 MR. HAMON: Just to be clear, the 1969
31 extension that included the western end of Naknek Lake
32 had its own legislative intent. Because of that, any
33 boundary that you see won't draw us back into the kind
34 of region you're talking. Most of the discussions
35 we've had and the quick things that we've looked at as
36 far as boundary adjustments were in the few thousand
37 acres. It's not a huge, wholesale move.

38

39 The kind of thing that you're talking,
40 I don't know that we've seriously considered. We've
41 had discussions about -- not a boundary, but one of the
42 things we've talked about is having -- things that
43 would take congressional action would include having
44 subsistence authorization within the Park. That's
45 completely out of our office's control, but it's
46 certainly in the Park boundary extensions from ANILCA.
47 It's something that could have been a reasonable ask
48 and expectation and it didn't happen, but it would
49 require a congressional action.

50

1 Changing from Park to Preserve would
2 require a congressional action if there was a segment.
3 So those are things that have not been talked about
4 seriously. Not because they're things we would
5 necessarily oppose. We might like to be involved in
6 discussing sort of how that happened, but it's
7 completely out of our span of control on those kinds of
8 things.

9
10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Well, at
11 least we're talking about it. I mean this is a great
12 first step and it's a good thing. I'd just encourage
13 you to -- you know, any time we can as a community have
14 some input into that, I'd really appreciate the effort
15 there.

16
17 Thanks.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah, I've
22 been aware of this Pike Ridge issue for years and I was
23 a little astounded to hear that the superintendent may
24 have some authority to resolve some of it more
25 directly. I would encourage Diane to be bold. If
26 somebody's got to make a first step, then it may be
27 time to forge some new country. Because, yeah, if you
28 get into the congressional action and you stir up the
29 Friends of the National Parks, you get the specter of
30 stuff like down at -- the King Cove/Cold Bay road and
31 stuff. I've heard of this being an aggravation since
32 I've been in the country and that's 25 years. Yeah, I
33 hope something can get fixed.

34
35 I have to say that I'm really impressed
36 the Park Service seems to be getting better and better
37 at working locally and I want to compliment them on
38 that.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

43
44 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
45 Chair. You answered most of my questions, both of you.
46 Thank you, Richard and Troy. My only comment would be
47 to echo Richard's concerns for what our back door is
48 here and what's happened. If we can be of any
49 assistance even at this board level, please make sure
50 and let us know and we will take it into serious

1 consideration and move on it as quickly as possible.
2
3 MR. HAMON: Okay. Thank you.
4
5 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
8
9 MR. O'HARA: It was really nice to have
10 the interim manager of the State of Alaska, his name
11 was Hard. What's his first name?
12
13 MR. HAMON: Joel.
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Joel, yeah. We had lunch
16 with him the other day and he's going to be working
17 with your new Park overall director and that's a good
18 thing. He comes from a law background and he listened
19 well and I think some really good things can happen
20 subsistence-wise without hurting -- we don't want to
21 see wetlands tore up and habitat taken away just
22 because we've got to go get an animal. We need to do
23 it right.
24
25 But you need to talk some more between
26 Big Creek and Kukaklek on the moose survey. What do
27 you have there? That's truly a resident-type
28 subsistence hunt there with some guiding I suppose.
29
30 MR. HAMON: Big Creek to Kukaklek. So
31 the Park border trend area is just on the uplands to
32 the east of Big Creek and that survey count we had 143
33 moose.
34
35 MR. O'HARA: That's exciting.
36
37 MR. HAMON: It is. And that is a
38 pretty fair count. I would say 100 is sort of normal,
39 so we had a pretty good count. We actually counted the
40 area twice in November. What we saw were around 100 in
41 the first week of November and almost 150 in the last
42 week of November and I think a lot of those animals had
43 just come up out of Big Creek because there were a lot
44 of animals on Big Creek this fall, upper end of Big
45 Creek. There were many, but that's outside of that
46 survey area.
47
48 The Refuge surveys, the Big Creek trend
49 area, which includes that and I don't know their
50 numbers. As far as the other area that we survey is up

1 on the Branch and that's a very large survey area.
2 Those numbers are I would say medium low, the survey
3 that we did over there, and I don't remember -- what
4 does it say, 82 moose. That's not a bad count, but
5 it's not a great count. We've had years where we get
6 almost nothing and then we find that all the moose are
7 yarded up just outside the trend area. That's one of
8 the reasons why we try to be careful about talking too
9 much about individual trend areas as having a lot of
10 meaning.

11
12 As far as what we saw this year between
13 the Park border and the Branch, I would say the moose
14 numbers, if you take those as representative, appear to
15 be all right. Fish and Wildlife Service flew the Big
16 Creek area. I don't know how that looked. I'd just
17 tell you observationally, I flew around Big Creek
18 looking for moose and I saw a lot.

19
20 The State went and flew the King Salmon
21 Creek drainage and I don't know what they got on that.
22 I haven't seen those numbers.

23
24 MR. O'HARA: Kukaklek Lake on up into
25 the Kakhonak area.

26
27 MR. HAMON: We don't have a trend area
28 up there on the Kukaklek bench. Actually, I take that
29 back. The Branch trend area includes part of the
30 Kukaklek bench. It actually goes all the way from up
31 north of Reindeer Lake, the western edge of Kukaklek,
32 all the way down to Sugar Loaf and over to almost the
33 Braids, so it's a big triangle. It's a very large
34 area. Takes us two days to fly.

35
36 The North Slope going down toward
37 Kakhonak would have to be something the State would
38 have surveyed and I don't have the State -- the State
39 is sort of the keeper of the whole body of data. We
40 hand all our stuff to them and when we remember to ask
41 for it back, then we get it back, but I don't think
42 we've asked to see what they have up there, so I don't
43 know.

44
45 MS. ANDERSON: I don't have the numbers
46 with me from past surveys, but they didn't get up there
47 this year to do the survey because they were without a
48 pilot for most of the survey time.

49
50 MR. HAMON: It's true that the State

1 ended up having only a very few days to get their
2 surveys in.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
5 questions.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, thank
10 you. It sounds very informative to people that live in
11 two or three different land situations. We'll take a
12 five or ten minute break.
13
14 (Off record)
15
16 (On record)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Calling the
19 meeting back to order. Next on the agenda would be
20 BLM. Is anybody online for BLM?
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Who is BLM?
25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Dan Sharp.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No BLM?
29
30 REPORTER: He was online yesterday.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nobody online
33 for BLM?
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: How about
38 ADF&G?
39
40 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Madame Chair. This
41 is Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
42 Federal Subsistence Liaison Team in Anchorage. I don't
43 have a formal report for you, but I do have a few
44 things I'd like to share.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You
47 have the floor.
48
49 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. First of all, do
50 you hear me okay?

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.
2
3 MR. CRAWFORD: All right. Yesterday in
4 the early portion of your meeting the teleconference
5 connection wasn't very great on this end, but when you
6 took up your minutes for your last meeting of the
7 Bristol Bay RAC in October, I did have a few
8 corrections and additions that I emailed to Donald
9 Mike. I don't know if anybody at the meeting has
10 internet access, but if so I did send some items
11 regarding that topic of your agenda for consideration.
12
13 Did you receive that, Donald?
14
15 MR. MIKE: Yes.
16
17 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. Thank you. Also
18 this morning I sent another email for the Bristol Bay
19 RAC, a C&T determination working group. I sent that to
20 Dan Dunaway and Nanci Morris Lyon and also Donald Mike,
21 hoping that he might share it with the group. I would
22 have also sent it to the other members, but I don't
23 have their email address. I hope that may be helpful
24 for your consideration.
25
26 An additional point regarding that C&T
27 determination email I sent, that the State of Alaska's
28 initial position on the C&T, we would like the Federal
29 program to be uniformly applied. We're not in favor of
30 having the rules for C&T for different regions.
31
32 The final thing I'd like to share with
33 you is some preliminary actions taken by the Alaska
34 Board of Game at their February 14-23 meeting in
35 Fairbanks that affect your region. There were two
36 items they passed. Proposal 122 to reauthorize the
37 brown bear tag fee for Region 4. For the Bristol Bay
38 subsistence region, that would be Game Management Unit
39 9 and Game Management Unit 17. The second proposal
40 that they passed was Proposal 132, which authorized the
41 antlerless moose hunt in Unit 17A.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're still
44 listening to you, so continue.
45
46 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. That's all I had
47 for you this morning unless you have any questions.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Drew. I
2 missed -- what was Proposal 122 that the Board of Game
3 passed in reference to brown bear. Could you repeat
4 what action was taken by passing that proposal.
5
6 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, they reauthorized
7 brown bear tag fee exemption for Region 4.
8
9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Drew. Thank
14 you, Madame Chair. I'm glad to hear that fee exemption
15 is continued. You'd mentioned you'd emailed something
16 to me and I'm trying to remember. When did you send
17 that? I seem to remember getting something, but I'm
18 not sure if I did a very good job of getting it spread
19 around to anybody.
20
21 MR. CRAWFORD: I emailed it at 9:30
22 this morning, so if you don't have access to email at
23 the meeting, you may have not gotten it yet unless you
24 get it from Donald Mike.
25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. I
27 haven't logged in and Donald Mike is poking me right
28 now.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thanks, Drew. This
33 is Nanci. We were already in our meeting by that time,
34 so I also did not receive it, but I'll play catch-up
35 here with Donald.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What was that,
40 I didn't catch the C&T -- the State did not approve and
41 I didn't get the rest of it regarding the C&T.
42
43 MR. CRAWFORD: Is that a question to
44 me, Madame Chair.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, yes.
47
48 MR. CRAWFORD: I sent a one-page email
49 to the working group basically summarizing some of my
50 thoughts on C&T based on my discussions of this topic

1 by several of the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
2 Councils. The gist of it was there's supporting
3 evidence, but the bottom line for this topic is do the
4 current C&T determinations work for subsistence users
5 on Federal public lands and waters in your region or
6 not. Are the Federally qualified subsistence users in
7 your region able to harvest enough fish, shellfish and
8 wildlife under the current regulations to meet their
9 needs or not. Based on what I've heard from other
10 RACs, those were the important questions that they were
11 asking themselves when they considered this topic.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan O'Hara.

14

15 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Crawford, this is Dan
16 O'Hara in Naknek. Can you hear me?

17

18 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes.

19

20 MR. O'HARA: The moose count in Area 9,
21 can we get that moose count that you did in 2014 from
22 King Salmon.

23

24 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, I believe so. I
25 don't have access to that, but I can check on that for
26 you and get back to you.

27

28 MR. O'HARA: Okay. I think we can just
29 go up to the King Salmon office and get that just for
30 time, but thank you very much.

31

32 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, you want to check
33 with Dave Crowley or Chris Peterson on that.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
36 comments, questions from the board.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I don't see
41 any. Thank you for your report.

42

43 MR. CRAWFORD: Thank you for listening
44 to me.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do we have BLM
47 online?

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, we'll
2 go down to tribal governments. We have Danielle and
3 Courtenay Gomez. Courtenay is online and Danielle is
4 here present.

5
6 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
7 Good morning. This is Danielle Stickman, subsistence
8 fisheries scientist for the Bristol Bay Native
9 Association. I just have some brief updates for the
10 Partners Program. Hardly anything has changed since my
11 presentation in the fall. We hired one intern for the
12 whitefish project to help us design the curriculum for
13 the culture camp that will be the last week in April
14 held at the Nondalton School. All Partners will attend;
15 Bristol Bay Native Association, Alaska Department of
16 Fish and Game, Nondalton Tribal Council and Lake Clark
17 National Park Service.

18
19 We're hiring two elders from Lime
20 Village that will come and make a traditional whitefish
21 trap, Helen and Alan Dick. They'll also help us with
22 traditional use of whitefish and do some classes with
23 the kids. Culture week will be with all age groups.

24
25 For the Partners Program this summer
26 I'll have two internships. One at the Fisheries
27 Research Institute at Lake Aleknagik and then one at
28 the Newhalen River counting tower. This year is the
29 last year for the Newhalen River counting tower. You
30 guys all probably know that it began in 2000. I'm not
31 sure if they're going to be reapplying for funding or
32 not.

33
34 In March, we'll be doing a week of
35 surveys. Just myself, BBNA and ADF&G will be doing a
36 week of surveys with Newhalen, Iliamna, Pedro Bay,
37 Igiugig and Port Alsworth to follow up on whitefish
38 surveys and interviews.

39
40 Courtenay was going to testify.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We have one
43 question from Nanci.

44
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Danielle.
46 It's more of a comment or suggestion. I'm very
47 interested in seeing the counting tower remain
48 somewhere up the lake. It was one of the things that I
49 know we mentioned yesterday to Jeff and I would highly
50 suggest or ask that maybe you would put your heads

1 together to come up with a project that could get
2 funded even through him and BBNA.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

7
8 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 Danielle, in our meeting over in Dillingham last winter
10 or last fall we sort of liked the idea in your
11 partnership program of getting together with King
12 Salmon personnel and Aniakchak or with the science camp
13 project that we have going on. In this last year it
14 didn't get the funding it needed, so they had to do it
15 here in King Salmon. Usually they're out somewhere
16 doing that camp. Is anything new with that? You said
17 you would take that into consideration and I'd like you
18 to still keep it alive in your thoughts there because
19 there's a lot of kids from this peninsula and area here
20 that would participate and it would be a great thing to
21 have some of that energy that BBNC is putting out for
22 these young people up and down this coast.

23
24 Thanks.

25
26 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 Richard. I haven't talked to them. I'll talk to them
28 and follow up within the next couple weeks. I know we
29 do the salmon camp out of Aleknagik and some students
30 from King Salmon and Naknek go over there. But I'll
31 talk with some of the Aniakchak people here.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. GOMEZ: This is Courtenay. I could
36 provide an update on that.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hi, Courtenay.
39 I think we have one question from one of the board.
40 Oh, were you going to answer that question from
41 Richard?

42
43 Okay. Go ahead.

44
45 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 Thank you, Richard. This is Courtenay Gomez for the
47 record. I'll just quickly answer Richard's question a
48 little more and then let you guys ask Danielle more
49 questions. I did talk with Orville recently at the
50 Alaska Board on the Environment when we were both in

1 Anchorage for that meeting and we're still very much
2 planning to work on trying to get BBNA more involved in
3 the East Side Refuge Science Camp Programs and Park
4 Service temp programs. It's still in the planning
5 stages but the ball is rolling and we're keeping up to
6 date on it.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
11 Courtenay.

12

13 Dan O'Hara, did you have a question for
14 Danielle.

15

16 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Danielle, appreciate
17 you being here today. Two things. One is I'm on the
18 Governor's Water Safety Program. Will you be having
19 any -- do you interact with our science camp here when
20 they do it over here for the east side? Is that
21 something BBNA involves themselves with or not?

22

23 MS. STICKMAN: That's what I believe
24 Courtenay was just saying. I haven't talked with
25 Orville, but I think Courtenay just said that the ball
26 is starting to roll on that. So I think in the future
27 we'll be more involved in that. Madame Chair.

28

29 MR. O'HARA: The reason I ask that is
30 the Water Safety Program -- there's two swimming pools
31 in Southwest Alaska, one here and Unalaska. We have
32 many, many villages who will sell popcorn and pop and
33 everything else to get enough money to get over here
34 and they stay in our school and eat in our cafeteria
35 for no cost. The assembly has waived any fees that
36 they would have to swim for free if they could get
37 here. Probably within a Thursday through a Sunday some
38 of them will learn how to swim and it will save their
39 life.

40

41 So we want the biggest population
42 possible here in King Salmon and the Water Safety
43 Program would come and do an afternoon type safety
44 water program. They don't do what the Cold Water
45 Program, which is very, very critical. Nothing to do
46 with subsistence, but in a way it does. It's
47 surviving. But kind of keep that in mind. We'll be in
48 touch with you and Courtenay on that.

49

50 The second thing is the counting tower

1 for Lake Clark, that tower -- what has happened is all
2 the other five tower river systems is still ongoing.
3 The Lake and Pen Borough and the Bristol Bay Borough,
4 as the mayor, Randy and I have been working on bringing
5 in money from the 1 percent tax that you fishermen
6 volunteered on yourself for the drift fleet to put
7 these towers in a week early. Because Popanoy got
8 their fish on the 16th. They were done by the 21st
9 with 600 fish. We hardly even put our net in the
10 water. Randy had 10,000 pounds of salmon on the 11th
11 of June and boats were still sitting in the yard. So
12 we want to go a week early and a week late.

13

14 I think between the two boroughs and
15 that percentage thing we should think about keeping
16 this tower open. I think it's very critical to your
17 escapement for up there in those areas that we work
18 together to keep that thing going. So I'm glad it was
19 brought up because we need to keep those towers going.
20 A week early and a week late you get more scientific
21 information.

22

23 And try to get as many kids here as we
24 can possibly at one time for water safety. Thank you.

25

26 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. O'Hara.
27 I'll be emailing Dan Young. He's the one in charge of
28 that project.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
31 questions for Danielle.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
36 Courtenay, did you have a presentation.

37

38 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
40 Courtenay Gomez. I'm the director of natural resources
41 here at BBNA. I just wanted to provide you with
42 information and overview of some things that are going
43 on here at BBNA that directly involve Federal
44 subsistence management and the RAC, as well as the
45 communities and constituents that you serve.

46

47 First of all, the C&T stuff yesterday,
48 it was really difficult for me to hear any of that.
49 I'm aware that you guys have talked with Danielle in
50 depth and her and I will reconvene and meet about that

1 in Dillingham this week. We'll be in touch in regards
2 to how you guys might want us to be involved with that.

3
4 I guess just in regards to not just
5 that issue, but all the Federal subsistence management
6 concerns that come through the RAC and obviously
7 involve all the BBNA members. BBNA is really committed
8 to working within the Federal subsistence management
9 system and we just want to make sure that we're
10 providing you guys the right stuff and providing our
11 member tribes the services that we need to address
12 these concerns and we're very thankful for our State
13 and Federal partners that work in co-management of
14 subsistence resources with us. Without having such an
15 effective partnership relationship with the Refuges,
16 the Park Service, OSM and others I feel like things
17 would be a little bit more discombobulated than they
18 already are. So we work hard for us to all stay on top
19 of everything at all times.

20
21 That said, BBNA is just like other
22 organizations around the state, including the Federal
23 and State agencies. We're seeing a reduction in
24 funding. Our programs aren't being funded at the same
25 level that they used to be and that needs to be taken
26 into consideration. When we're working on all these
27 subsistence management program issues and not receiving
28 adequate levels of funding through OSM and other
29 resources, it's really difficult to get the work done
30 that we need to do.

31
32 In regards to FRMP processes, Project
33 14-451, I really feel like we've kind of beat that to
34 death this cycle, so I really don't want to talk about
35 that so much other than implications for the Bristol
36 Bay region not being involved in the FRMP program. As
37 you know, Danielle is sitting there as a subsistence
38 fishery scientist, which is funded through the Partners
39 for Fisheries Monitoring Program, which also is funded
40 through OSM. It's a separate pot of money, the FRMP;
41 however, in order for us to be eligible to fund
42 Danielle's position, we have to have an FRMP process.
43 That is what is currently written into the system. So
44 that's something we could discuss with OSM or the RAC
45 could discuss amongst themselves.

46
47 I personally think that as funding is
48 getting cut to the FRMP project and therefore funding
49 going out the door to Alaska Native and rural
50 organizations, such as BBNA, is also getting cut. The

1 wording in regards to eligibility for the Partners
2 Program could potentially be addressed to not
3 necessarily say that you must have FRMP funding, but
4 you need to be working on Federal subsistence
5 management issues within your region. I think that
6 would be just as applicable as having to have an FRMP
7 project.

8
9 For instance, the Newhalen River
10 counting tower, that project no longer receives FRMP
11 funding, but it is a Federal subsistence fisheries
12 management project. If we're working on that project
13 with the Park Service as we are but not through the
14 FRMP budget line item, then we're not eligible for
15 Partners money. So that needs to be addressed. I
16 think potentially a letter coming out of the RAC as
17 well as BBNA working with OSM could try to pick some of
18 that up.

19
20 Also in regards to FRMP program and the
21 priority information needs, in your packet on Page 35
22 regarding subsistence resource concerns. In the coming
23 year there will be at least two opportunities for
24 Regional Advisory Councils and other stakeholders to
25 discuss subsistence fishery resource concerns for their
26 Monitoring Program funding regions. These discussions
27 will occur at each of the winter 2014 and fall 2015
28 Regional Advisory Councils meetings. Resource concerns
29 identified during these discussions will be used to
30 direct the request for proposals for studies on
31 subsistence fisheries during the 2016 funding cycle.

32
33 That's what I tried to speak to
34 yesterday, that it's really important to be documenting
35 your subsistence concerns throughout your meeting and
36 working to get those incorporated into the priority
37 information needs so that they're eligible to receive
38 funding. I know you guys discussed it somewhat
39 yesterday, but I couldn't tell through the phone
40 connection as to whether or not any formal motions were
41 made.

42
43 Other things to consider would be the
44 counting tower in priority information needs, if that
45 is a need for you as the RAC to address your
46 subsistence sockeye concerns, but you probably want to
47 do that.

48 I'm going to shift gears and talk a
49 little bit about tribal consultation and BBNA's
50 involvement in that. We originally tried to be

1 involved in the tribal consultation guidelines and in
2 the process throughout the last year. However, we came
3 up to a hard spot and I was hoping maybe the RAC could
4 help us address that.

5
6 So BBNA tried to get permission to sign
7 in to the tribe working group and attend their
8 teleconference because BBNA is not an ANCSA
9 corporation. For us to receive -- OSM wanted us to
10 approach our ANCSA working group and listen to the
11 presentations of tribal consultation in regards to the
12 ANCSA corporations. However BBNA serves the tribes, we
13 do not serve our ANCSA corporations. Although we work
14 with them in partnership, our mission involves the
15 tribes and working with them.

16
17 So, in order for us to most effectively
18 work with our tribes regarding tribal consultation we
19 need to know what information the tribes are getting so
20 that we can then navigate that system and help provide
21 them with assistance to do the same thing. I don't
22 know if a letter from the RAC to OSM stating that much
23 would help with that process, but that's at least my
24 concern.

25
26 Finally, just updating you guys on some
27 information in regards to BBNA and our programs. In
28 regards to priority information needs, is Togiak
29 chinook escapement. As you know, through past FRMP
30 calls, Togiak chinook populations were at least being
31 monitored even though an actual escapement enumeration
32 project wasn't going on, but we were researching that
33 through a telemetry project, which is no longer funded.

34
35
36 The Togiak chinook escapement needs to
37 be effectively enumerated. There's no more escapement
38 goal coming out of the Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game for Togiak River chinook and there's no escapement
40 monitoring at all. So if this population wants to
41 remain healthy, which I know it does for everybody,
42 including the RAC, we need to go about addressing this.

43
44
45 Next month, March 18th and 19th, is
46 what's called a SWIM meeting, Southwest InterAgency
47 Meeting, which is where a bunch of State and Federal
48 fisheries biologists get together in Dillingham and
49 have a two-day conference going over projects in our
50 region and program updates. At that meeting we're

1 going to have a presentation regarding Togiak chinook
2 escapements and kind of a meeting of the minds,
3 brainstorming session as to how we can go about better
4 addressing the escapement issue or lack of an issue, I
5 guess, in the Togiak River.

6
7 So that is definitely something that
8 the BBNA Partners Program is going to be working on in
9 the near future and we'll be working with the RAC on.
10 The other thing that we're going to be working on
11 within our region with our tribes is -- back in 2001
12 and 2003 BBNA, when our natural resources department
13 was run by Ralph Andersen and Hans Nicholson as our
14 subsistence coordinator did an outreach program in the
15 tribal communities working with the tribal councils to
16 develop a document called the Bristol Bay Subsistence
17 Priority Information Needs Assessment.

18
19 They basically worked with the tribes
20 to review subsistence concerns and compile it into an
21 assessment document that we could then use to
22 strategize on regulation proposal changes, funding for
23 research and that type of a thing and BBNA is going to
24 be taking on and updating a revision process for that
25 document, making it applicable to current times and
26 potentially future resource concerns regarding
27 subsistence.

28
29 At some point in time we're going to be
30 bringing that revised document to the RAC meeting and
31 presenting that. It probably will be at the very
32 earliest at your October meeting or one year out from
33 today.

34
35 So those are really our updates right
36 now and I welcome any questions. I thank you so much
37 for all of your service and all of the agencies and our
38 great partnerships.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is there any
41 questions for Courtenay. Richard.

42
43 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Courtenay, good afternoon. Can you hear me?

45
46 MS. GOMEZ: Yes, Richard, I can hear
47 you.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Okay, thanks. You
50 mentioned that you guys are going to try to find some

1 funding for the chinook over there in Togiak drainage.
2 Is there any -- I don't know. I'm just looking for the
3 availability of funding, I guess, because we struggle
4 over here too on the east side knowing our chinook
5 populations. You talk about regional input. Is there
6 any hopes on getting anything like that over on the
7 east side of the bay here?

8

9 MS. GOMEZ: Absolutely. I think
10 chinook populations are a statewide priority and also
11 for part of our priority information needs for the
12 region. That's something we need to work strategizing
13 on and submit for funding. I just received
14 notification this morning through the Alaska
15 Sustainable Salmon Fund. Their statewide advisory
16 expert panel is going to be meeting on March 19th to
17 discuss -- let's see. The panel will review and update
18 the high priority objective and strategic focus
19 statements that were selected for the 2013 call for
20 proposals.

21

22 So the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund
23 is operated out of ADF&G and is part of available
24 funding that addresses all sorts of different salmon
25 concerns around the state. At this expert meeting on
26 March 19th they'll review Alaska's goals, which I know
27 Meshik River is definitely included and I think maybe
28 the King Salmon River chinook were included in that.
29 At that meeting that is really going to be an important
30 time to include some of these different rivers and
31 populations where we need to do research and try to get
32 that included in their priority information needs so we
33 can try to address funding through that call for
34 proposals.

35

36 It's different than the FRMP, but it is
37 definitely a pot of money that we could try to work
38 through as well as the FRMP. So you as RAC members
39 that have concerns in your region, including on the
40 east side, need to make sure to clearly state those at
41 the RAC meeting and get that incorporated into the
42 priority information needs assessment document for the
43 FRMP call for this next 2016 pot of funding.

44

45 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Courtenay.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
48 questions. Dan O'Hara.

49

50 MR. O'HARA: Courtenay, this is Dan

1 O'Hara. How are you today?
2
3 MS. GOMEZ: I'm doing well, Dan. Thank
4 you.
5
6 MR. O'HARA: Good. Hey, one of the
7 things I think we were discussing off record yesterday
8 that we should bring to your attention is that many of
9 the villages, some villages are no longer a part of
10 BBNA. They handle their own administration. So that
11 leaves a big vacancy when it comes to items that we
12 talked about yesterday getting this information out to
13 the borough area on C&T versus .804 as far as that
14 status goes.
15
16 Another one was on the size of the
17 communities. What was that one on?
18
19 MR. WILSON: Rural determination.
20
21 MR. O'HARA: Rural determination, yeah.
22 Do you have board members still like from Naknek? I
23 know Naknek does their own administration. Do you
24 still have board members from these villages that come
25 even if they're not a part of the BBNA anymore? Could
26 you answer that.
27
28 MS. GOMEZ: Yeah, I'll try to address
29 what we call compacting. BBNA is made of 31 Federally
30 recognized tribes in the Bristol Bay region, including
31 Naknek, and including the tribes that are what we call
32 non-compacting. So, yes, we have 31 board members.
33 All of the tribes that are listed as our member
34 organization do attend our board meetings regardless of
35 whether or not their BIA funds go directly to them or
36 our quote/unquote compacts through BBNA.
37
38 When I send stuff to the tribes, I
39 include all the tribes. I don't really care if they're
40 compacting or not. That's more of an accounting,
41 direct funding and government type of function. I feel
42 that it doesn't matter if a tribe is compacting or not.
43 We still provide them information regarding subsistence
44 harvest.
45
46 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. Thank you
47 very much, Courtenay. That's really good because some
48 of this stuff is pretty critical on how we make a
49 decision and we thank you for getting on the
50 teleconference today. At the end of the meeting today,

1 one of the last things that I want to talk about is if
2 agencies can't be here, then they need to get a written
3 report to us. If they are not here and don't have a
4 written report, we'll take them to the woodshed.

5
6 So thank you very much for your time.

7
8 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more --
11 Dan Dunaway.

12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 Courtenay, I want to thank you for you summarizing a
15 lot of information fast. Great job and kind of jogged
16 my thinking on a few things and I hope before we close
17 up here today -- I would be eager to see us come out in
18 support of some ongoing Newhalen River/Lake Clark
19 escapement counting.

20
21 It occurs to me that Slim Morstad is
22 retiring and they're going to have a new biologist. It
23 might be really valuable to have some ongoing counts as
24 we get a new person installed and up to speed. There's
25 been some wrinkles in the past in the escapement. It
26 might be interesting to see what returns we have coming
27 back from that.

28
29 Also it had kind of slipped my mind the
30 Togiak chinook escapement concerns, but we did hear
31 those at the Nushagak Advisory Committee as well. If
32 there's a way we can encourage Fish and Game, Fish and
33 Wildlife, BBNA, Togiak tribes to come up with a
34 project, I would be supportive of that and again the
35 same from this side. I'm a little less solid on what
36 you could do or where. There was a time we had a weir
37 up in Big Creek.

38
39 Thanks very much, Courtenay, for kind
40 of jogging me on that. I was regretting I hadn't talked
41 to you before coming to this meeting. We'll see if we
42 can come out in official support of some of those.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

47
48 MS. MORRIS LYON: Hi, Courtenay, this
49 is Nanci. I want to thank you for your participation
50 too and I'm sorry that connections were not very good

1 yesterday. I especially apologize to you knowing how
2 active of a participant you always are, whether on
3 phone or in person. I know how difficult it is having
4 had to sit through the same thing last fall and having
5 difficulties myself. So kudos on you for sticking with
6 it and I thank you for that.

7
8 I just wanted to update you really
9 quick to let you know on our C&T you will be receiving
10 from Donald Mike in the extreme near future a letter
11 that we had him put together that was to be distributed
12 to yourself as well as other organizations you might
13 not be reaching out to for what I guess you would call
14 the board's ask from tribes and organizations as far as
15 your input into it, so you're going to be seeing that
16 shortly. That was the choice that we made as a board
17 to continue forward. We felt like we didn't have
18 enough information from the members of our communities
19 and this is an attempt on our part to reach out and get
20 that information and it will be a little bit more
21 clearer when you receive that from Donald.

22
23 Also we may -- I'm hoping that you're
24 planning on participating in the rest of the
25 teleconference because I know that I would definitely
26 be interested in helping to create a letter in support
27 of BBNA's work for our Council and the Partners Program
28 regardless if they have a project in relationship to
29 the FRMP program and we may want to use some of your
30 wording. That sounded pretty concise and well worded.
31 I hope we'll be having more discussion.

32
33 Thank you again, Courtenay.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
36 discussion.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No.

41
42 Jeff.

43
44 MR. BROOKS: Madame Chair. For the
45 record, my name is Jeff Brooks. I'd like to share some
46 information with Courtenay, BBNA and the RAC about the
47 Partners Program. For your information, OSM has begun
48 very early in preliminary discussions on sitting down
49 with a group of people and writing a strategic plan for
50 the Partners Program. So it's very possible that we

1 will consider things like new language for example on
2 how Partners can qualify.

3
4 We have not specifically talked about
5 the connection with a funded FRMP project, but these
6 are the types of things that will take place. After
7 the initial planning team has a meeting or two, we're
8 going to decide how to involve Partners and other
9 stakeholders in helping us put this plan together.

10
11 It's not going to a full-blown, normal
12 strategic planning process due to lack of staff, time
13 and money, but we're going to include people outside of
14 OSM, primarily current Partners, potentially some past
15 Partners. So these types of concerns that you have
16 with the Partners Program can be addressed in this
17 process and that is our intention right now.

18
19 Also, Courtenay, thank you for
20 reminding us about the priority information needs and
21 the importance of expressing those during the RAC
22 meetings. I'd also like to thank you for your
23 participation today.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci, did you
28 have a comment?

29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, a comment,
31 mostly to you, Jeff.

32
33 Does our verbal confirming the
34 importance that we feel should be placed on BBNA's
35 partnering with us, does that suffice in lieu of a
36 letter so that we can take that off the table for
37 discussion and you have heard that. In your current
38 process that you're going through, are we assured that
39 that will be taken into consideration?

40
41 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Nanci. Madame
42 Chair. It's always best to have written support from a
43 RAC on anything, so if it's possible I would encourage
44 that. However, if this planning process gets off the
45 ground and we seriously address the improvement of the
46 Partners Program, BBNA should be adequately involved in
47 that, so they can give their support. I intend to work
48 with people like Courtenay and Danielle on these
49 priority information needs. Again, I'm not familiar
50 with the Partners Program well enough to know how firm

1 that qualification is on the funded project, but having
2 a letter from the RAC would be a good idea, I'm sure.

3

4 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
7 comments. Danielle.

8

9 MS. STICKMAN: I just have one more
10 comment, Madame Chair. In Margaret Goodrow's updates,
11 the program updates for the National Park Service,
12 there's a little summary on the whitefish trends and it
13 does say that this is the final year and this is the
14 final FRMP project that I'll be working on. If we
15 don't change the wording in the Partners negotiations,
16 this will be the final year until the next round of
17 proposals.

18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. That's not
22 a good thing.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead.

25

26 MS. MORRIS LYON: If the board would
27 humor me and entertain it, I would like to make a
28 motion right now while it's fresh on the table that we
29 do ask Donald to have a letter written on behalf of the
30 RAC expressing our support of what BBNA has done with
31 the Partners Program to help us gather information for
32 our use here and perhaps suggest the wording that
33 Courtenay had in revamping their program to ensure that
34 they will be able to continue to provide us with that
35 information in the future and they would be funded as
36 appropriate through OSM.

37

38 I think that is it. Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

41

42 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, I sign by that,
43 Madame Chair, that letter. City of Dillingham should
44 send a letter. All the villages could do a resolution.
45 It's just come to us that it's going away and all of a
46 sudden here we are in a middle of a crisis. I realize
47 it's probably a Federal program. I would imagine a lot
48 of BBNA money is Federal and they don't seem to be
49 doing much out of D.C., which is not necessarily a bad
50 thing. What are your thoughts, Danielle?

1 MS. STICKMAN: Could you restate that
2 question.
3
4 MR. O'HARA: I mean you just announced
5 that this program is going away, but we have a meeting
6 Monday and every month. Local areas should be in
7 support of this program if it's something worthwhile
8 going on I guess is the bottom line.
9
10 MS. STICKMAN: It won't be going away
11 forever. This program goes through four-year cycles of
12 funding, so we knew that there wouldn't be an FRMP
13 project after three years, so we only applied for three
14 years of funding. After the fourth year we could
15 reapply for another four years.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan O'Hara --
18 I mean.....
19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: The other Dan.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll second Nanci's
25 motion.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
28 been a motion by Nanci to have Donald Mike write a
29 supporting letter for BBNA on the ongoing funding for
30 partnership and seconded by Dan Dunaway. Any
31 other.....
32
33 MR. O'HARA: Question.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question
36 has been called. All in favor say aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
42 opposition.
43
44 (No opposing votes)
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none.
47 Thank you.
48
49 MS. STICKMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks. While it's also
4 fresh, to clarify with Nanci or anybody who would speak
5 to it, should we compose another letter that says
6 towers on Newhalen or Lake Clark drainage chinook
7 salmon escapement in Bristol Bay and Togiak, especially
8 chinook salmon, are fisheries priorities for us? Do we
9 need to formalize that? If we do, this would be the
10 time to do it.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
15
16 MS. MORRIS LYON: I guess I would
17 suggest that we have Donald include those items as
18 suggestions for future partnerships that we have in
19 mind already for our relationship with BBNA.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Just if we
24 want to get real fancy and formal, as a second, I'd
25 view that as a friendly amendment. We don't have to
26 rehash things.
27
28 Thanks.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: As suggested
31 by Dan Dunaway, I guess there needs to be a friendly
32 amendment to the suggestions that Dan Dunaway made to
33 Nanci's motion. I think that should do it. Is there
34 any more on this subject.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
39 I wanted to thank you, Courtenay, for your help, for
40 your report. Hopefully through the Partners Program
41 you'll have Donald as your contact person and he then
42 will update us on what's going on between now and our
43 next meeting.
44
45 MS. GOMEZ: Absolutely. Thank you,
46 Molly, and thanks so much, Donald. Donald is just such
47 a wonderful asset to have for the RAC and OSM and the
48 Bristol Bay region and I'm sure the other Councils that
49 he helps coordinate. He does so much work for you guys
50 and for us. I just couldn't be more happy with the

1 work that he does.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We'll give him
6 a pat for you. Dan Dunaway.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 Courtenay and Donald, I'd be willing to work with you
10 on taking this letter -- if I can get a letter from
11 you, I'd take it to city council in Dillingham. I
12 might need some reminding, Courtenay, but I'd be eager
13 to work with you to do that.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
20 we're down to the end of our agenda here.
21
22 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: Madame Chair.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.
25
26 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: This is Susie
27 Jenkins Brito with Fish and Game Board support. I had
28 to step away from the line during the beginning of
29 agency reports. I realize we're at the bottom of the
30 agenda, but I have a couple things to offer to the RAC
31 if I could have a couple moments of your time.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Under what
34 topic is it, BLM? Oh, ADF&G. Sorry. Yes, go ahead.
35
36 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: Thank you, Madame
37 Chair. Again, this is Susie Jenkins-Brito with the
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Board support
39 section. I just wanted to offer any public members and
40 also the RAC members just a heads up about a couple of
41 things. Deadlines that are on the State side of
42 things. Region 4 call for Board of Game proposals went
43 out late January, early February and the deadline for
44 proposals is May 1st. Those can be submitted by fax or
45 online or in person at any ADF&G office. So if there's
46 anything on the wildlife side of things that you'd like
47 to see changed or updated for Region 4, this is the
48 opportunity to do that.
49
50 At the work session for the Board of

1 Game last October, the discussion began initiated by
2 the Department about the Board switching from a two to
3 a three-year cycle and the Board is now soliciting
4 comments on that. Board support is accepting these
5 comments through a survey that we have online and also
6 available in our Dillingham office or Juneau office.
7 If you call, we can direct you to that survey either
8 online or by a paper copy. The deadline for those
9 surveys is this Friday, February 28th.

10

11 The survey covers that Board of Game
12 cycle change, but it also is soliciting comments on how
13 the current advisory committee process is working. How
14 it's working for Bristol Bay and on a statewide level.
15 So if you appreciate or think that there needs to be
16 changes in the advisory committee structure, we
17 encourage everyone, not just AC members, but any
18 interested public to participate in that survey and
19 give us some feedback on how Fish and Game can be more
20 helpful, how the advisory committees can be more
21 effective.

22

23 Also whether you feel the Board of Game
24 should change to that three-year cycle from a two-year
25 cycle. The change was proposed due to large budgetary
26 savings it would have, but also it would give advisory
27 committees more time to react to developing game issues
28 and managers more time to do herd population surveys
29 and just bring better, more complete information to the
30 Board.

31

32 So if you'd like to participate in that
33 survey, you can call me here in the Dillingham office,
34 842-5142 and I can direct you to it online or provide
35 you with a paper copy. Like I said, the due date for
36 that is this Friday. However, the Board of Game will
37 discuss that two to a three-year cycle change at the
38 statewide meeting, which is going to happen March 14th
39 to the 18th. The online comment deadline for that
40 meeting is this Friday, but they'll accept comments
41 throughout the course of that meeting as a record copy
42 and those can be faxed to the Juneau office.

43

44 Just a brief update on Bristol Bay
45 Advisory Committees. The Nushagak AC met January 21st
46 and the Togiak Advisory Committee met February 11th.
47 Lower Bristol Bay AC met this past Monday, the 24th.
48 All discussed some statewide Board of Game issues and
49 the West Side Bristol Bay AC discussed the brown bear
50 tag exception and the Unit 17A antlerless moose hunt.

1 Both of those proposals passed, as Drew Crawford
2 mentioned I believe in his report.

3
4 The Naknek/Kvichak AC hopes to have a
5 meeting between mid to late March to discuss that Board
6 of Game call for proposals and also cover elections.

7
8 The Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee is
9 tentatively scheduled to meet March 12th in Newhalen to
10 do elections and talk about Board of Game issues and
11 potentially a chumming issue.

12
13 So that's just kind of a brief overview
14 of what's going on on the Department side of things
15 with the Advisory Committees in Bristol Bay. I'm
16 always in the office in Dillingham to answer questions
17 and I just wanted to give everyone there a quick
18 catch-up on what was going on.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
23 Susie, for giving us a good update. Do any of our
24 board members have any questions for Susie.

25
26 Dan O'Hara.

27
28 MR. O'HARA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 Susie, nice hearing you. This is Dan O'Hara. Who is
30 the chair of the Iliamna AC?

31
32 MR. HEDLUND: Randy.

33
34 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: It's Randy Alvarez.

35
36 MR. O'HARA: Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Susie, I guess
43 one of my questions would be since -- you know, when we
44 do the resource processes here, we're always looking
45 for solid numbers and whatever else we could have. Is
46 ADF&G Subsistence Division -- I guess Ted Krieg isn't
47 here with you.

48
49 MR. KRIEG: I'm on the line.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, hi, Ted.
2 Do you have a short report for us, Ted, before I ask
3 the question, I guess.
4
5 MR. KRIEG: Sure. I was just going to
6 do a quick update about some of our ongoing work. The
7 one project Danielle already spoke to, the whitefish
8 project, that's going to be coming up. We've been
9 doing work. In fact, the last couple of days I was
10 doing subsistence salmon harvest with Clarks Point
11 people for the Chinook Salmon Research Initiative
12 Project for the Nushagak River and that was --
13 communities involved in that project are Clarks Point,
14 Ekwok, Koliganek and Dillingham and there will be some
15 work going on this summer also.
16
17 So that was just my quick update on
18 things.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Sorry to cut
21 you off, Susie. Did you have additional information
22 for us?
23
24 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: No, that was all I
25 had, Madame Chair. Thank you.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
28 questions for Ted or Susan from the board here.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Ted, the
33 question that I was going to ask you you answered. It
34 sounds like the survey project is for the chinook
35 salmon for the Nushagak River.
36
37 MR. KRIEG: Correct, Madame Chair.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We'll probably
40 -- once that report is completed, we'll probably be
41 interested in it just for information. It looks like
42 there are no questions for you.
43
44 Thank you, Susan and Ted, for your
45 reports.
46
47 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: Thank you, Madame
48 Chair. I just wanted to offer one more thing. I'm
49 emailing Donald Mike a copy of that survey now along
50 with the link to the survey online and he said he'll be

1 forwarding it on to you guys. I also attached in that
2 email a copy of our Board support newsletter that just
3 came out at the end of the month. So if you have a
4 chance to look it over, please do so.

5

6 Thank you again for your time.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks again.
9 Nanci, did you have a comment.

10

11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Madame Chair.
12 I would propose that before we move on to our last
13 agenda items we take -- if everybody's had a chance to
14 look at this letter that Donald has put together for us
15 on C&T, I have read it through and I believe Molly has
16 and I'm not sure who all else has, but I think the
17 easiest way to go forward with this is a motion.

18

19 Donald, I'm asking.

20

21 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Nanci. Yeah, if we can have the Council members go
23 over it real quick and we'll have staff available for
24 help in answering questions. If it's the wish of the
25 Council to go ahead and approve the intent and content
26 of this letter, we'll go forward and we'll finalize it.

27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If you haven't
31 had a chance to read it, we'll give you a couple
32 minutes to read it through and then we'll act on it.
33 We'll stand down for about five minutes while we read
34 it.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: It sounds like
39 we're through reading, so let's get back to this
40 document and see what changes, corrections we can make
41 on it. Richard.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. The second
44 paragraph there, the last sentence, the Council seeks
45 comments from tribal councils in cooperative effort
46 with BBNA. Isn't it true that we're also looking for
47 comments from not just tribal but from Native
48 corporations as well? I'd like that to be included so
49 it doesn't look like it's just tribal councils in
50 cooperation with BBNA because some of the councils have

1 opted out of BBNA, so it gives a more broad look there.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other.

4 Dan.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm not sure whether this
7 should work into the letter or maybe a separate request
8 for analysis or something. One thing I got to thinking
9 about last night is a question if we were to go to this
10 .804 process and such, could it happen that if it went
11 to that simplified process, could say a person who is
12 Federally subsistence qualified in Southeast, would
13 they be able to, say, come out here or go up to Nome or
14 Barrow and fall under whatever subsistence while
15 they're still a resident of Southeast. Would the .804
16 process make it easier or would it allow folks to kind
17 of get out of region so to speak? If this system would
18 allow that, I have some concerns that that could fuel
19 some anxiety and discomfort among regions. Possibly
20 also would concern say the non-qualified folks.

21

22 I talked to Pat briefly about this. I
23 decided I'd really like to get that on the record as at
24 least requesting an analysis of that potential impact
25 if we went to .804 process.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi, this is Pat
30 Petrivelli. Yes, that concern has been brought up by
31 other Regional Councils and the idea that if we do away
32 with customary and traditional use determinations, then
33 the opportunity for subsistence hunting on the Federal
34 public lands would be open to all rural residents.
35 Whether people from Prince of Wales Island will come up
36 here and try to harvest things or whether you go down
37 to Unit 2 and harvest deer there. I think that's why
38 the idea of regional C&T determinations came up and I
39 think that's what the Southeast and Southcentral
40 Regional Councils are exploring now, is that
41 possibility, so that broad regional C&T determination.
42 But I think that's why this is still a work in progress
43 and people are trying to look at all the implications.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. That's real
48 helpful. I wanted to qualify my support for
49 simplifying a couple things. I hate to see people
50 thrown into a straightjacket. Well, you didn't mark

1 sea urchins on your thing, so you don't get to go eat
2 them. I don't want to see that, but I do want to avoid
3 where we end up with some real regional tension. So I
4 was generally speaking in context of assuming that it
5 would be regional. That probably doesn't need to be
6 included in this letter, I'm guessing.

7

8 So thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

11

12 MS. MORRIS LYON: I was just going to
13 make that comment. I agree.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
16 comments on this. Nanci.

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just one more. I'm
19 going to credit Lary even though he didn't want to give
20 it. On the back of the page, the second paragraph
21 where it starts our Council, four lines down, it says
22 we are asking input from the communities. Really we
23 should say all subsistence users in the region instead
24 of the communities because that's really what we're
25 looking for.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

30

31 MR. O'HARA: Have we already acted on
32 this?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No. We're
35 discussing it. If nobody has anymore suggestions, I
36 like the format. This is what I wanted to see, but
37 what I would prefer is reading these criteria first and
38 then at the end the explanations of how to use each of
39 these criteria. If nobody else minds, I'd like to
40 maybe have these two explanations moved down to the end
41 of the document.

42

43 Jeff.

44

45 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 I remember from yesterday your request and the way I
47 remembered it was after Pat's explanation I thought
48 that you were asking for a brief summary at the bottom
49 of the table to describe how these are applied by State
50 and Federal agencies. The language that you see at the

1 top of this table under function, the function has been
2 written by one of the staff as a description of why and
3 how they're used and then the next is the legal
4 language from the Code of Federal Regulations and from
5 the Alaska Code. From those you get your factors on
6 the Federal side and your criteria on the State side.

7
8 What might be nice to put down at the
9 bottom of this is another role called application where
10 it would be explained very briefly and concisely in
11 proper terms how they're applied. In general, if my
12 understanding, which is limited, is correct, the
13 Federal program applies the eight factors holistically
14 as general guidelines, whereas in the State case they
15 are required benchmarks that they attempt to measure as
16 well as possible to see if a community or area actually
17 meets the criterion one through eight. It's very
18 different. The application is different. That might
19 be important for people to understand.

20
21 I believe that's what you were asking
22 for yesterday. Am I right?

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, that's
25 what I was asking for. Those factors -- was it
26 factors?

27
28 MR. BROOKS: Madame Chair. Jeff
29 Brooks. On the Federal side they're called factors and
30 the State side they call them criterion or criteria.
31 So the explanations -- I guess we can just leave the
32 format up here and then just add those explanations on
33 the bottom.

34
35 MR. BROOKS: That's correct.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess
38 another thing that I don't see that we talked about
39 yesterday, I just didn't want this thrown to somebody
40 without kind of a timeline. If we could put something
41 down here where we would expect this work to be done at
42 such and such a time, it probably would be helpful so
43 this wouldn't go on and on.

44
45 Nanci.

46
47 MS. MORRIS LYON: As a suggestion,
48 Donald, could I just say that you would add a sentence
49 that states any responses that you might have we would
50 appreciate receiving by whatever the date might be that

1 would be good for you to be able to include it in our
2 informational packets for the fall meeting. I would
3 suggest we leave that date open for Donald to make that
4 decision.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anymore
7 additions, questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, we can
12 have a motion.

13
14 MR. BROOKS: Madame Chair. Pat and I
15 just realized that there may be an issue with the
16 second to last paragraph on the other side, the second
17 page. The one that starts with please consider. I'm
18 not sure if that makes sense or if it's appropriate. I
19 realize that these things were drafted rather quickly.
20 The last part of it says we will need to be able to
21 defend the process to State agencies where they could
22 apply to both land management authorities. The .804
23 criteria only applies to Federal lands.

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair. Jeff.
26 I agree. The intent is for it to have the entities
27 ready to consider on this side of the bay. Like
28 Richard and I were talking last year where a lot of the
29 times we want the State to fall into line and we're
30 doing our best to align things as much as possible to
31 simplify things. That's the intent, to be able to --
32 we have to be careful what
33 criteria we use on the Federal lands on this side so
34 that when we go to the State with an argument to join
35 us in whatever we're trying to achieve we're able to
36 support it.

37
38 You're right, this wording is not good
39 and it does not get that across, but that is what I
40 would like it to say. Donald, does that suffice? Can
41 you get that off of transcripts?

42
43 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Yes, as long
44 as we capture the intent on record and we'll finalize
45 the correspondence and I'll get it approved.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Looking at that same line, I'm wondering if there
3 wasn't an inadvertent -- now I look a little closer, I
4 kept reading it conversation, but it says conservation.
5 Maybe we could fix that word.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If we
8 don't have anymore additions or questions on this, we
9 could have a motion.
10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair. I
12 would like to make a motion that the letter concerning
13 the C&T evaluation by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
14 Council that we've constructed here in front of us,
15 with the corrections we've suggested, including the
16 ones that haven't been made yet but have been captured
17 on transcript and will be incorporated into the letter,
18 be approved by the Council members to be issued to the
19 appropriate groups and individuals so that we might
20 gain more information to be able to make a decision for
21 further use.
22
23 MR. WILSON: I'll second that long,
24 long motion.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
27 motion and second.
28
29 Is there any discussion.
30
31 Jeff.
32
33 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
34 Jeff Brooks. Just a point of clarification. We don't
35 have it in front of us right now, but the letter
36 indicates that both of the tables will be included.
37
38 Is that still your intent?
39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.
41
42 MS. MORRIS LYON: That is part of what
43 I was issued and it is my intent that what I was issued
44 was included in that.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 MR. JONES: I've got a question. When
49 do you figure this is going to be done and said? Are
50 we doing this for 20 years or are we going to be doing

1 it for six months?

2

3 MR. BROOKS: Madame Chair. Yesterday
4 we had somewhat of an ambiguous discussion of timelines
5 and deadlines and urgency. One thing to remember is
6 that there has been no formal proposal submitted by the
7 Southeast Council to put this before the Board as a
8 change in regulations. This is sort of a deliberation
9 period where the Southeast Council and I believe the
10 Federal Subsistence Board is asking the other RACs for
11 their input. I do not have an answer for you on an
12 exact date and I hope that it's not 20 or 30 years.

13

14 MR. JONES: I was kind of curious. You
15 start voting on something and things go in there and
16 they look at what you asked for in different
17 communities and then the next thing you're regulating
18 State and Federal lands through a commercial deal of
19 controlling your subsistence. That's what I was
20 looking at down the road. I'd hate to see that happen,
21 you know. I don't know how everybody else looks at it.
22 What happens in the future of this thing. That's what
23 I'm looking at. I might not be around when you guys
24 settle this, but I'd like to see what -- you know, you
25 don't want to put proposals in to something that isn't
26 going to happen here close to the future. That's what
27 scares me on anything you do. I know you're out there
28 feeling to see what you can get and what you can't get.
29 That's what I see out of this. That's my opinion.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

32

33 MR. O'HARA: Mr. Brooks. I think if we
34 had an emergency situation take place with the resource
35 that the Federal Board would certainly pass .804 onto
36 this Council and this Council is going to handle that
37 situation. That's the bottom line. I don't care who
38 says what. You can write as many letters as you want,
39 but that's what's going to happen. This Council is
40 capable of doing that.

41

42 I feel badly that those Chignik people
43 have to get in their boat and go up to Aniakchak and
44 look on the hill and see bulls running around and can't
45 even get in a four-wheeler to go up and get a moose and
46 go home empty-handed. There may come a time when we
47 tell the Refuge/Park people that we'll cut the
48 commercial guys out until we start getting some
49 subsistence and that's the job that you get paid for
50 here.

1 By the way, Naknek people don't get
2 paid for coming here, but we're here. As mayor, I get
3 20 bucks a month. Twenty bucks a month to be mayor.
4 Isn't that amazing?
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
7 discussion.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
12 motion by Nanci to accept and pass the C&T letter with
13 corrections and seconded by Richard. I guess we're
14 ready for a vote if there's no more discussions.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MR. O'HARA: Question.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question
21 has been called. All in favor say aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
26 opposition.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
31 It's passed. Thank you. I assume that this will be
32 rewritten and sent out and given to BBNA as soon as
33 it's done.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 Okay. I guess next on our agenda is to
38 confirm our next meeting date, time and place. I
39 looked at the date there and it looks like it's going
40 to be conflicting with some other activities.
41
42 Let's discuss the date.
43
44 Dan.
45
46 MR. O'HARA: Thomas, are you going to
47 have a fall hunt and would October 7, 8 and 9 not be
48 good or 21, 22 and 23 be good?
49
50 MR. HEDLUND: It doesn't matter to me

1 this fall.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
4
5 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just for me, anything
6 after the 20th of October is better.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.
9
10 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
11 believe that's when the AFN will meet during that week
12 in Anchorage also.
13
14 MR. O'HARA: 28, 29, 30.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah.
17
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair. Can I
19 suggest we change our meeting dates to October 28th and
20 29th for Dillingham in the fall.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any opposition
23 for those two dates.
24
25 MR. JONES: I don't travel on the 28th
26 and 29th. I don't.
27
28 MS. MORRIS LYON: What days will work
29 for you?
30
31 MR. JONES: I don't know.
32
33 MR. WILSON: You're off vacation now,
34 John, those dates?
35
36 MR. JONES: My birthday is on the 29th.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The suggested
39 dates were 28th and 29th.
40
41 MR. WILSON: But they won't work for
42 John.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Troy, you have
45 a good word for us?
46
47 MR. HAMON: Not related to your meeting
48 date, but I just got a text from our chief ranger who
49 asked me to pass on, if I may, Madame Chair and Council
50 members, that there's going to be a local public

1 hearing here about wildlife harvest regulations for the
2 National Parks in Alaska. It will be on March 13 from
3 7:00 to 8:30 at the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Room.
4 This is a carryover from the temporary closure that was
5 posted in the Park compendium last year. The public
6 comment period is from March 9th through the 22nd.
7 Anybody that's interested, it's going to be here in the
8 Bristol Bay Borough Assembly. There's going to be a
9 number of these meetings throughout the state. Sorry
10 to be late to bring that up.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Troy, it will be well
15 posted?

16
17 MR. HAMON: It will be posted in all
18 the places that we have to post and it will be on the
19 internet. We post these on Facebook as well. It will
20 be posted as well as we can.

21
22 MR. WILSON: KDLG AM.

23
24 MR. HAMON: I don't know. I'll ask.

25
26 MR. WILSON: It's always a good source,
27 radio stations, both FM and AM.

28
29 MR. HAMON: Yeah. Not being involved
30 in the actual dissemination, I don't know if they do
31 that or not, but I'll make a point of reminding them in
32 case.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Mary.

35
36 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 Just to follow up. Lake Clark National Park is also
38 going to have the same type of public hearing. This
39 was mentioned on the update that I handed out earlier,
40 but just for the record the Park will hold a public
41 hearing on March 12th and that will be in Port Alsworth
42 at 6:30 at the Lake Clark Visitor's Center and it will
43 also be widely disseminated as far as information on
44 that so that people know it will be taking place.
45 There will also be opportunities for people to call in
46 from remote locations and participate by phone.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
49 Mary.
50

1 Dan.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: Fall meeting. How about
4 September 30, October 1 and 2? Does that interfere
5 with duck season? Who gets conflicted on that?
6
7 MR. WILSON: Nanci said nothing before
8 October 20th.
9
10 MR. O'HARA: Okay. Take that off the
11 table.
12
13 MR. JONES: You could have it on the
14 28th and 29th if that's good for you guys, but I'll do
15 it on teleconference.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What's the
18 wishes of the Council.
19
20 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. What about
21 November? That's too late, Donald?
22
23 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. We'd have to
24 get approval from our office outside the meeting
25 window, but if this Council requests the first week of
26 November I'll get that approval process going. For
27 this meeting planning purposes, we can also set the
28 week of November 1, but the primary date is October
29 28th and 29th. That would be my suggestion. Madame
30 Chair.
31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. I'm
33 willing to go with that, but I sure want to acknowledge
34 it's been really helpful to have John's input. He's
35 kind of down there in the corner in the area that I
36 sure don't get to and he brings a lot of information to
37 this. So see what we can do to accommodate him.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So we're going
40 to go with the 28, 29 with the option of the first week
41 of November if Donald can get those dates for us.
42
43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, except I
44 thought John said that November he was going to be in
45 Vegas, so it won't do us much good. We're still going
46 to be doing without him.
47
48 MR. JONES: That's cool with me to do
49 it on teleconference. You can hear me just as well.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.
2
3 MR. HILL: Why are we having the
4 meeting date starting on a Tuesday and going to
5 Wednesday? Because of travel?
6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.
8
9 MR. HILL: I'm informed, so that's all.
10 I'm good with it. I got the information I needed.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We need a
13 motion.
14
15 MR. HILL: I'd like to make a motion.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary Hill made
18 a motion to have the meeting October 28th, 29th, with
19 the option of the first week in November if Donald can
20 get those days in place, but it sounds like we should
21 just confirm the 28th and 29th since John is not going
22 to be available the first week of November anyway.
23 That's Lary's motion, October 28th and 29th.
24
25 MR. O'HARA: In Dillingham.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: In Dillingham.
28
29 Do we have a second.
30
31 MR. O'HARA: I'll second it.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seconded by
34 Dan Dunaway.
35
36 MR. O'HARA: O'Hara.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan O'Hara.
39
40 MR. O'HARA: The other one.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Did you have a
43 comment?
44
45 MR. O'HARA: No. We had the motion and
46 second. Then we can have discussion.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.
49
50 MR. WILSON: I'd like to make a

1 comment.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Yeah, my comment is we all
6 have to give up a little something to be here.
7 Everybody's got lifestyles and things and I think if
8 you're going to volunteer to be on this Council that
9 there is some -- you guys have got to kind of check
10 yourself out why are you really here. So, you know,
11 there's got to be a little bit of unity here in trying
12 to fit around everybody's schedule. If it's a vacation
13 kind of thing, it seems to me like moving a couple days
14 here or there just to accommodate because you're -- you
15 know, we're here for our people and to just have some
16 priority that way or some thinking would be good.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: All in favor
21 say aye.....

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK:for the
26 October 28, 29 dates. Any opposition.

27

28 (No opposing votes)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
31 Thank you. So our next meeting in Dillingham will be
32 October 28 and 29. Do we have any closing comments for
33 the board.

34

35 MS. MORRIS LYON: We still have to do
36 our winter dates for next February.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, I'm sorry.
39 We still need to do 2015 winter schedule. It will be
40 Naknek and what dates. Nanci.

41

42 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll take the first
43 stab at it here. It seemed like this week worked well
44 for everybody, so I'll start by proposing maybe the
45 24th and 25th of February for 2015 winter dates.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci, that
48 was your motion?

49

50 MS. MORRIS LYON: Sure. I'll turn that

1 into a motion and see how we go from there.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We have a
4 motion.
5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seconded by
9 Dan. Any comments.
10
11 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. Do we
12 travel on the 23rd, meet on 24th and 25th, and go home
13 on the 26th?
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes. Lary.
16
17 MR. HILL: Where is this going to be?
18 Here?
19
20 MR. O'HARA: Yes.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If there's no
23 additional comments regarding our winter February 24,
24 25 dates of Naknek.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: All in favor
29 say aye.
30
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
35 opposition.
36
37 (No opposing votes)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Our
40 next winter meeting in Naknek will be February 24, 25,
41 2015.
42
43 Closing comments from the board.
44
45 MR. O'HARA: One of the important parts
46 of the Council for making an informed decision is to
47 have a report from the agencies. You'll notice in your
48 agenda, I don't think U.S. Fish and Wildlife gave us a
49 report. Did they, Madame Chair? So last year we
50 scheduled our winter meeting 11 and 12 of February,

1 then it was changed, and I changed my vacation to be
2 here.

3
4 The superintendent of Katmai National
5 Park and Preserve scheduled her time for 11 and 12, but
6 she had representatives here that gave us what we
7 needed to know.

8
9 So I think we ought to give a direction
10 -- we don't have to make a motion because it would be
11 too formal, but I think we should encourage -- we
12 should give a direction to Donald as a Council that
13 these agencies either if they cannot make it, give a
14 written report. For instance, I asked a question here
15 today on Ugashik 1 and 2, Dog Salmon River and I forget
16 the other one up in that lake there, out of Pilot
17 Point, Ugashik area. That's a huge subsistence area.
18 No information on a winter count or caribou increase
19 since 18,000 down to 1,500 and where are we at and some
20 of these things.

21
22 We asked the Park biologist about the
23 branch of Alakanuk on up through Kukaklek and that's
24 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The guy on the
25 phone did say -- he gave me a couple of names, which I
26 will follow up on. If we're going to sit here for two
27 days, I think if the agencies can't make it, then they
28 either need to get a written report in or an answer to
29 us.

30
31 I think Donald should go -- if he
32 doesn't, I will -- go see the Chairman of the Federal
33 Board to chastise these agencies for not taking care of
34 this responsibility. We can't make an informed
35 decision on somebody's subsistence lifestyle if these
36 agencies are not going to be responsible for taking
37 care -- every month at the assembly meeting we have a
38 report from every department and they're written. We
39 don't ask them to come talk to us, but there's a
40 written report.

41
42 If we go as assembly members to the
43 manager and say get this taken care of, are you over
44 budget, what's going on here. Public works, police
45 department, harbor, planning, whatever. It's a whole
46 established government and it's run correctly and they
47 give us the budgets and it's in the black by the way or
48 we turn it back to them saying don't give it to us. We
49 are in the black. So this needs to be run the same
50 way. I'll write a letter personally myself to U.S.

1 Fish and Wildlife department head saying that as a
2 Council member that I'm not happy with this.

3
4 The last one is even worse and it's
5 unfortunate, but we lost Johnny Ball the other day. He
6 was a longtime resident of Bristol Bay. Long, long
7 time resident. My mom wouldn't fly with anybody except
8 Johnny Ball, but that's okay. He was just really a
9 good friend and contributed a lot to what we do here
10 and we're just sorry that his family has lost him.

11
12 I thank these people that came out.
13 It's been a great meeting. I mean there's been a lot
14 of good work done. So I appreciate all of those
15 things. It's nice to have Mary McBurney back. Dan and
16 I were talking, if I could quote you, Dan, it's nice
17 that she moved to a different department, but she's
18 come back, so we still have that resource. How do you
19 make your decisions without that.

20
21 Madame Chair, you have a big job ahead
22 of you.

23
24 Carry a big stick.

25
26 Thank you, ma'am.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other --
29 Richard.

30
31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. That was
32 going to be my comment. I couldn't have stated it any
33 better.

34
35 You did an excellent job.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, one thing also. If
40 we could pass on best wishes and health to Alvin. I
41 kind of missed him being here.

42
43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: But do wish him strength.
46 And Pete Abraham for that matter as well. Thank you,
47 Nanci. They've been significant contributors and we
48 hope the best for both of them.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
4 Chair. And I also thank you, Dan. That was part of my
5 comments and you stated them very well and I support
6 exactly what you had to say about the lack of reports
7 we received at this meeting. I also felt a major loss
8 in any kind of decision-making that I could do because
9 of it.

10

11 I also would like to make a couple of
12 requests. They very possibly might have already
13 occurred or have taken place without them, but I would
14 like to ask Donald if we could please request a report
15 on the whitefish study that has taken all these years.
16 We haven't received a lot as far as actual meat out of
17 the study yet. I'm sure it's probably in the works,
18 but I'd like to see it on the agenda as soon as it's
19 feasibly possible, which may not be until next year at
20 this time.

21

22 Also with that, and it kind of really
23 ties in to what I've already said or what Dan had
24 already said and I supported, is that I would
25 definitely like to see or ask Troy if there's a
26 possibility that he could get Donald any update on the
27 Aniakchak moose trend populations once you're able to
28 capture those, even if it's just a summary that he
29 could disseminate to us as a RAC board for us to chew
30 on so we don't have to wait until the fall meeting. I
31 know it may not be possible, but I would appreciate
32 notice or news on that as soon as it becomes available.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, members of
37 the Council. I'd be happy to do that if we get any
38 additional counts done this winter, we'll make sure
39 Donald has them immediately so he can get them to
40 everybody.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

43

44 MR. HILL: I want to make some
45 comments.

46

47 First, I agree with the other members
48 of the Council. If an agency needs to be here or asked
49 to be here, if they're not going to be, let us know
50 right away as soon as you can. If you're stuck at home

1 with a flat tire, call up and say, hey, we can't be
2 there, but we'll send you a written report.

3
4 Second, I want to express my concern or
5 sympathy with the National Park Service with having to
6 -- the superintendents and other agencies within the
7 Park Service having to send a lot of their questions
8 about major decisions back to Washington, D.C. That's
9 got to be very frustrating. Especially with
10 transportation, like with Donald having to give a
11 transportation plan to people in Washington, D.C. who
12 haven't the foggiest idea where Chignik Bay is or
13 Perryville, Iliamna, Newhalen. How do you even get
14 there. So if there's some way to speed that process up
15 or allow our local people to make these decisions. I
16 feel like a real lack of distrust, that Washington,
17 D.C. is holding our hands, blackmailing you.

18
19 They're not going to give you funding
20 if you don't toe the line.

21
22 I'm expressing my frustration with
23 watching these guys trying to do their work and they
24 can't because they've got to go all the way back to
25 Washington, D.C.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

30
31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. This is for
32 Troy. We'd asked for info on the moose population.
33 Susan Jenkins just told us at the end of March we'll
34 have an AC meeting. It's always good to have people
35 that are out surveying and stuff, you know, with
36 information coming to that.

37
38 It helps everybody out.

39
40 Just a heads up.

41
42 Thanks.

43
44 MS. STICKMAN: Madame Chair. I just
45 have a quick response to Nanci. We've got a timeline
46 for the whitefish project. I'll try to email you guys
47 the poster. We're going to try to have a poster by the
48 end of the culture week in April or a video of what
49 we've done and I'll try to email that to Donald Mike.
50 The full report will be due December 2014. The draft

1 will be due hopefully in September 2014. I'll have a
2 full report in the fall.
3
4 Thank you.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: I have to jokingly say
9 the report has to include some of that really good
10 whitefish agutuk that I've had from up there. I've
11 never had anything so great.
12
13 MS. STICKMAN: I'll try to bring some.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
16
17 MR. O'HARA: We've got to thank Richard
18 for that nice fish today.
19
20 Oh, man, I forgot to bring mine.
21
22 Next time.
23
24 MR. WILSON: Whatever is left you guys
25 make sure you take home those jars, anybody that's
26 interested.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
29 other comments.
30
31 MR. HILL: Sometimes getting your
32 finger on this button is almost like people are trying
33 to play Jeopardy.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess my
38 closing comment, I'm going to punctuate both Dan
39 O'Hara's and Lary's and everybody else's concern about
40 the lack of presence of the people that are supposed to
41 be here giving us information so that we can make
42 decisions. This board was formed so that we could be
43 -- not decision-makers, but what is that term,
44 assisting -- there's a term for it, but I can't think
45 of it now. We're here so that we could help with
46 whatever the agencies have to be working on regarding
47 different resources. We can't make right decisions
48 when we don't have personnel to help us with the
49 information.
50

1 So I really want to thank the people
2 that stayed here with us from the beginning. I've
3 always appreciated Togiak Wildlife Refuge's reports.
4 They consistently write down every year all their
5 information even though when they make a report they
6 only report on one or two items, but what's informative
7 for me is to keep track of all their activities from
8 year to year.

9
10 What would be helpful for me and
11 probably the rest of the board is to have your reports
12 in to our packets so that we wouldn't be trying to
13 scramble to read whatever you're going to be reporting
14 to us and miss the important questions that we might
15 have for you. Those people that are definitely not
16 going to be here should plan long enough to have their
17 reports in our packets so that we can have them. Even
18 though they're on teleconference we'll have their
19 reports in front of us to ask questions of them.

20
21 Thank you everybody for coming.

22
23 We had a good meeting. I think we
24 accomplished documents that would be helpful until our
25 next meeting.

26
27 Any comments from our audience.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess nobody
32 is jumping up.

33
34 But we appreciate your presence.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. O'HARA: Make a motion to adjourn.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's a
41 motion by Dan O'Hara to adjourn.

42
43 Seconded by.....

44
45 MR. HILL: Second.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

48
49 All in favor say aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Have a safe
4 trip home.
5
6 (Off record)
7
8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF ALASKA)

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